

Re-election threat for overspenders

Heseltine in challenge over poll tax reform

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MR MICHAEL Heseltine today throws down a central challenge to the Cabinet on the future of the poll tax. In an article in *The Times*, he rejects a whole series of options being looked at by the committee of Cabinet ministers considering alterations to the community charge.

Instead, he proposes that all members of councils whose charge reflected a spending level more than a given percentage above the Government's assessment of their needs should have to face a local election. Mr Heseltine says: "I narrowly failed to persuade the Cabinet to adopt this proposal in 1981 (when he was Secretary of State for the Environment). I still believe it would work."

Arguing that the fear of electoral defeat is the only factor that keeps down spending — historically, councils have held down rates in election years — Mr Heseltine says the disciplines could be tightened further by insisting that a local authority proposing a high community charge would have to pay the Treasury a surcharge to compensate for the inflationary consequences.

Mr Heseltine, who says the Government will not be given another chance after this one to get the poll tax right, repeats his call for paid, directly-elected mayors with tougher value-for-money audits. He

urges the recreation of unitary authorities, pointing out that the much-vaunted Tory success in the low-poll tax boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster — which ministers have taken as evidence that the principle of the poll tax is saleable — would have been unlikely if voters there had been confused by precepts from the old Greater London Council or Inner London Education Authority.

Ministers are discussing in private the idea of a return to single-tier boroughs after the next election: the question is whether they will retain their enthusiasm for the idea, or take up any other of Mr Heseltine's proposed reforms now Mrs Margaret Thatcher's main challenger has adopted them. The onus will be on the Cabinet to come up with something better or accept his ideas with a good grace.

In a series of other proposals that will open up the poll tax debate and could well influence any future leadership struggle, Mr Heseltine calls for redemption of Mrs Thatcher's original pledge to replace the rates with a system more broadly-based and reflecting people's ability to pay by banding the tax upwards, with top-rate taxpayers contributing more than those on lower incomes.

He criticizes the system of rebates and makes a clear demand for the exemption of the elderly living at home from paying the charge, declaring: "Taxing the elderly because they remain at home, looked after by their families, when transfer to old people's homes — thereby increasing public expenditure — would save them personally around £350 a year, seems to me a negation of Tory principles." He also describes the double burden of poll tax and business rate for small businesses living above the shop as unacceptable.

Rejecting present practice in assessing rebates, he says: "The deemed assumption by the Government that savings can earn over 20 per cent is frankly incredible." And in another indication of the exemptions he seeks, Mr Heseltine says: "We have gained the maximum political opprobrium by charging the physically disabled, student nurses and students themselves, with precious little extra revenue to show for it."

Accepting that the Conservatives will fight the next election with the poll tax in place and warning that it costs £1 billion in Treasury funds to reduce the average charge by £28, he rejects a number of the

options being considered by a Government seeking to placate Conservative MPs alarmed about the political fall-out of the charge.

There is no guarantee, he says, that hefty increases in the central government grant to local authorities will see more than a fraction passed on in lower community charges. "There would be a bonanza of public expenditure with only a gesture of charge reduction," and income tax might have to rise while the Government would be blamed for falling standards of service.

He dismisses the idea of universal capping as an idea "crawled all over" by ministers before being rejected. It would encourage lower spenders to spend up to the limit and destroy the central aim of the legislation: accountability.

Mr Heseltine's language in condemnation of the poll tax and its effects is bitterly uncompromising. He says it has created a lingering sense of injustice among those who saved to buy their own homes and budgeted carefully for their old age. In spite of their lifelong commitment to the Tory cause they felt "badly let down".

In a passage which almost amounts to a rallying call for a Conservative leadership contest he insists he has no intention of creating. Mr Heseltine goes on: "To these must be added recent recruits: council house buyers and the couple in a terraced house who last year paid £250 in rates and this year face a bill of over £700. They don't have any doubt whose fault that is. They are not political philosophers, just couples with a tight budget. They have to be won back to their natural political home. There is no time to be lost. There will be no second chance."

Mr Heseltine's promised contribution to the poll tax debate has been eagerly awaited by Conservative MPs who accept that despite the better-than-expected showing in the local elections, the party's problems are far from over. Mr Heseltine, by coming out ahead of the Government's own review of the poll tax, acknowledges that he has taken a risk in putting himself up to be shot at.

His article also includes a warning that wage claims are "damagingly close to double-figure disaster" and that local authorities in their spending plans are unlikely to confine themselves to the amount required to cover inflation.

Scots conference, page 5
Let people choose, page 14

Aids spreads among adults in Romania

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

ROMANIA is suffering a serious spread of Aids among adults in addition to the paediatric epidemic uncovered after the overthrow of President Ceausescu.

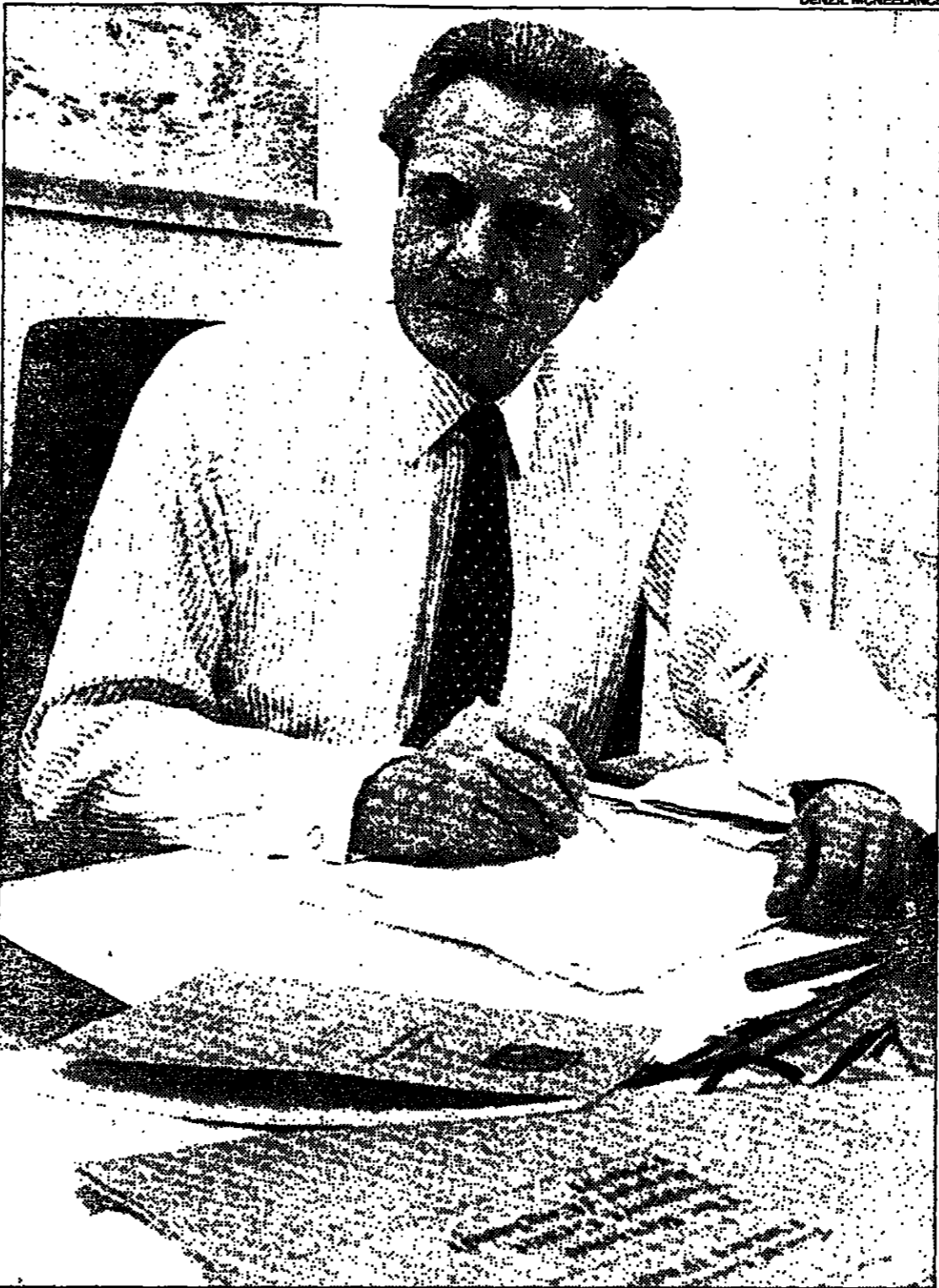
The discovery comes after years in which Romania lied to world bodies about a non-incidence of Aids, depicted in the media as a disease afflicting capitalist societies. The nature of the cover-up is now being scientifically exposed.

In an interview with *The Times*, Dr Jacques Lebas, the

leading French Aids expert who helped to confirm the original epidemic among Romanian children, disclosed that the first tests on a random sample of 7,000 adults in Romanian hospitals showed that 40, or 0.6 per cent, were HIV-positive.

Dr Lebas said: "This is very serious news for the country, and will require an urgent strategy to be drawn up by the authorities to counter it."

Adult epidemic, page 11



Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday: he says the Government has one more chance on poll tax

Peaceful day of Soviet parades

By Anatol Lieven and Mary Dejevsky

A FEW scuffles between armed troops and nationalist demonstrators in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, were the only manifestation of the violence which the leaders of the Baltic republics had feared would be spurred by yesterday's Victory Day parades in the Soviet Union.

In Moscow, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet Defence Minister, presided over one of the most perfunctory and least anti-Western Victory Day parades since the ceremony was instituted. But he gave a warning that a risk of war still existed and called for the Soviet Union to keep its defences at an "adequate and sufficient level".

In the Baltic republics, the Soviet armed forces commemorated the 45th anniversary of their victory over Nazi Germany with an impressive display of military might. There had been warnings of violence beforehand by Soviet officers, and in Vilnius, the Lithuanian leadership had asked its supporters to remain at home to avoid any possibility of "provocation".

Crowds estimated at less than 3,000 lined the city's main Gedyminas Avenue to see the parade, including light armed vehicles, pass the parliament building where independence was declared and where President Landsbergis has his office.

The scuffles appear to have been short-lived. Some ethnic Russian women in the crowd presented flowers to para-

Continued on page 24, col 1

Unity show, page 10

Car pricing inquiry launched

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

AN INVESTIGATION of British car prices, claimed to be as much as a third higher than the rest of Europe, is to be mounted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The commission has been asked by the Office of Fair Trading to establish whether British car buyers are often asked to pay substantially more than customers in the other 11 nations of the European Community.

It will also delve into the cost of parts and servicing, as part of the probe asked for by Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading. He referred the matter to the monopolies commission after deciding that complaints by consumer organizations were sufficient to warrant a full

investigation. The inquiry comes on top of demands from Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner to know why prices vary so widely. Sir Leon has written to 15 manufacturers asking for an explanation of their prices.

The motor industry yesterday refused to mount a thorough defence of accusations that it was "milking" the British market, but produced exhaustive accounts of pricing policies throughout the EC. Ford would not give prices for the rest of Europe but said it was confident its policies would stand up to examination. Rover also refused to disclose specific prices, but said there were substantial differences in specifications of

cars on sale in different countries. "They cannot be compared because the cars on sale in each nation vary widely according to circumstances," it said.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said it believed price differentials first highlighted by the European Consumers' Union in January were "greatly exaggerated", and pointed to the greater specification of UK cars over European rivals. The organization, which represents both manufacturers and dealers, said it did not believe the system operated against the public interest.

Sir Gordon, however, said there was enough concern to warrant an examination of pricing policies and distribu-

tion and dealer networks. "Consumers may benefit from the exclusive dealer arrangements under which new cars are sold in the UK as long as they lead to competitive pricing, efficient servicing and essential spares back-up," he said.

"But if the distribution system leads to consumers paying more than is justified, that is another matter. It seems to me there are sufficient doubts."

The Office of Fair Trading wants the commission to complete its investigations and report to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, by August 9, 1991.

Prices compared, page 2
Stock market, page 32

Young under fire again over Rover

By Sheila Ginn, Political Reporter

LORD Young of Grafton faced fresh allegations yesterday that he misled Parliament and the European Commission during the controversial £150 million sale of the Rover car company to British Aerospace.

However, the Commons trade and industry split down party lines over the strength of its criticism of the former Trade and Industry Secretary's actions. After last night's private session to debate the draft report of the chairman, Mr Kenneth Warren, one committee MP reported: "We only got to paragraph 15 — and there was blood all over the place."

Although Mr Warren's report urges stringent criticism of Lord Young's handling of the sale, some of the other

Conservative MPs, including Mr James Cran and Sir Anthony Grant, have indicated that they will not sign such a damning final report.

The key dispute is whether Lord Young, now deputy leader of the Conservative Party, attempted to hide from MPs and the EC the £38 million hidden "sweeteners" given to BAe to clinch the deal. The committee's report is not expected to be published until Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior EC commissioner, delivers his verdict.

24-hour shifts: Rover is to impose a 24-hour shift system to boost production of its 200 and 400 models, leading to an extra 1,200 jobs and a reduced working week, despite a ballot rejecting the idea against union recommendation.

Bournemouth to sue League over soccer riot

By David Sapsted

BOURNEMOUTH councillors yesterday initiated legal action against both the Football League and Leeds United in a bid to obtain tens of thousands of pounds in compensation after the weekend riot by visiting soccer hooligans.

While Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, appeared to be waging an uphill campaign to get Sardinian authorities to ban alcohol when they play host to England in the World Cup this summer, the councillors on the Dorset coast voted unanimously to engage counsel to prepare a case for suing the league and the club. Saturday's troubles at Bournemouth were also uppermost in the mind of Mr Lennart Johansson, president of Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

He said he would be seeking guar-

antees from the British Government that it would "take all possible legal steps on security abroad and at home on high-risk matches" before the crucial meeting of the union to decide whether English soccer clubs should be allowed to resume European competition.

He said that even if England had a trouble-free World Cup, it would not guarantee the clubs' re-admission to Europe. He wanted guarantees from the Government, he said, in the wake of the trouble at Bournemouth, where he had been "dismayed" to see the lack of co-operation between the police, who wanted the fixture date changed, and the football authorities, who refused.

In Bournemouth itself, Mr Stephen Chappel, the council's solicitor, said that any action would serve as a test case. "In view of the admissions of the Football League, the council should quantify its losses and issue a claim against the

league. If the claim is not met, they should issue a summons," he said. The council would only be able to sue for its own losses, he said, not those suffered by traders, householders or individuals whose cars were damaged during the rioting.

Superintendent Leslie Burns, who was in charge of policing Saturday's game, told the committee that he had not anticipated the level of violence. "We are extremely lucky we did not lose a life," he said.

Meanwhile, in Sardinia, Mr Moynihan's success at getting the Italian government's blessing for the idea of an alcohol ban ran into local opposition. There are grave doubts that the local prefect would upset local bar-owners and hoteliers by ordering them to shut when the English fans were in town.

Full report, page 48

Labour MPs disown report on teachers

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE bitter divisions surrounding the delayed publication of an all-party report on teacher supply over the next 10 years emerged yesterday when the four Labour members dissociated themselves from the final report. It called on the Government to provide a "substantial" amount of money to improve teachers' pay and conditions and to lift low classroom morale.

The four Labour MPs on the 11-strong committee said yesterday they voted against the report because it failed fully to reflect the evidence the committee received "about the dire state of the profession, and as a mark of our concern about the constant unacceptable pressure applied to the committee by government ministers and Tory whips".

Mr Malcolm Thornton, Conservative MP for Sheffield, Hillsborough, said there were "profound" differences over the report; mainly over the committee's approval of the licensed and articulated teachers' scheme to give on-the-job training to mature students and to introduce differential salaries in the shortage subjects of mathematics, physics and technology.

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said many of the report's recommendations were designed "to con parents that something will be done".

Teachers' morale, page 5
Leading article, page 15

Property firm lays off 800

Rush & Tompkins, the property developer has laid off 800 of its 1,750 employees. The move came as the receivers estimated the group's total debt at more than £300 million. Several main board directors will lose their jobs.

Mr Christopher Morris, one of the receivers, said he had not yet completed a review of Rush & Tompkins's business but that it was very unlikely shareholders would receive any money back. Page 25

Church divided

The Methodist commission which has compiled a report on the ordination of homosexuals, was deeply divided and has recommended that the decision should be made individually. Page 3

Lithuania plea

Lithuania's supplies of oil will run out within the next three weeks. Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the country's Prime Minister, said in London yesterday when she visited Mrs Thatcher to ask for British support. Page 10

Elderly care

By the year 2000 there will be 10 million Britons over retirement age. A Special Report examines the issues facing the ageing. Pages 35-37

Exciting vision

Nanotechnology is a field of science that conjures up exciting visions: microbots injected into the bloodstream to perform surgery or used to attack air pollution. Hype versus reality — in Science and Technology. Page 39

Students win

Yorkshire's cricketers were beaten by the Combined Universities by two wickets in a group match of the Benson and Hedges Cup. Page 48

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Mr Moynihan: Has won support for alcohol ban

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Sunroofs and radios of the fleet boom drive up all car prices

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

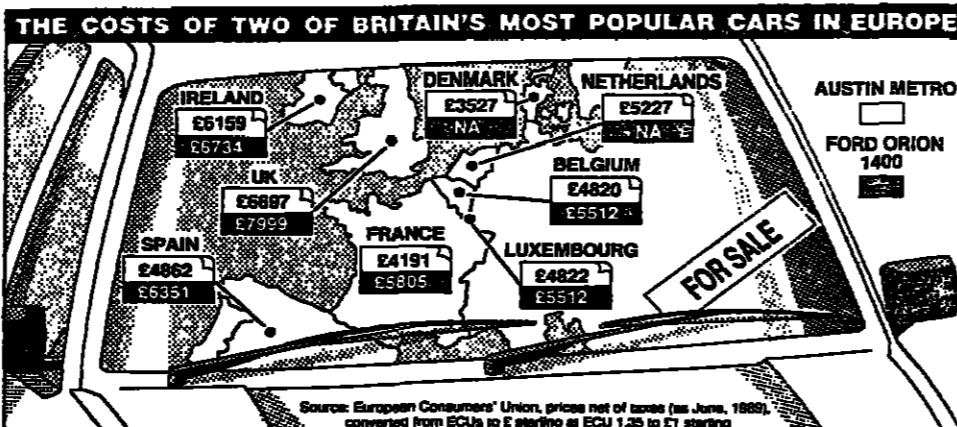
EVERY other car that leaves a British showroom is on its way to a company car driver. The trade is worth more than £10 billion a year, and is particularly valuable for British manufacturers who supply the fleet industry.

The effort of supplying that vast market, however, has brought an unwelcome spin-off for private car buyers, who have to pay for the "extras" company car drivers demand. The British market has been the most open in Europe for 20 years; it is neither motivated by patriotism, as in West Germany or France, nor governed by high taxation.

The story throughout the rest of Europe has been vastly different, as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will discover when it opens its 15-month investigation into

manufacturers' pricing policies. The inquiry will not only have to examine prices at the factory gate for each car but taxation levels in each country and what goes into each car. Britain is by far the most complex and competitive market in the European Community, with six out of 10 new cars coming from foreign manufacturers. It was Britain that first allowed the Japanese to exploit customers, disarmed with low-quality home-built cars, and to discover that buyers were just as likely to be enticed by a radio or electrically powered windows as they were by price.

At the same time, a Labour Government wage freeze encouraged employers to offer company cars in lieu of pay rises. The result was an explosion of company car use, with



one in 10 of all cars now belonging to companies and half of all new car sales — more than a million a year — going into fleets.

With company profits buoyant throughout the late 1980s, firms spent freely on

new cars, bowing to the wishes of employees who wanted more luxuries in their cars.

The result is that British cars are, according to the manufacturers, much more highly specified than those available abroad.

Local taxes also often mean that buyers abroad eventually pay the same or even more than their British counterparts, the industry says. Dr Peter Cope, at the motor industry research unit of East Anglia University, Norwich,

said a check showed that VAT in Denmark was 22 per cent, and there were registration taxes up to 180 per cent over the pre-tax price.

In France, the Government has been steadily reducing VAT from more than 30 per cent to 25 per cent, while VAT in West Germany was 14 per cent. In Belgium, judged to be as much as a third cheaper than Britain, VAT was 25 per cent, and there were special taxes of up to 8 per cent on cars over three litres. However, the Government also imposes price restrictions, which means that price increases there of 1 per cent on average on some models this year compare with rises to combat inflation of 3 per cent in the UK.

Britain charges a 10 per cent Special Car Tax in addition to VAT of just short of 15 per

cent. Dr Cope said: "Pre-tax prices are often varied to allow for local taxation, which, as in the case of Denmark, is almost double the original price. That could distort the comparisons made by the European Consumers' Union."

Volkswagen-Audi ran a full comparison and claimed that its prices varied little in its three key markets, Britain, Belgium and West Germany. Mr Stewart Miller, the company's general manager for tax-free sales based in Baker Street, London, said: "Just the movement of exchange rates can make an enormous variation in prices. The key difference of specifications is also vital. British buyers, for example, expect a radio as standard in this country, where in Germany they do not."

A VW Passat CL Estate (90 brake horse power) with catalytic converter, on sale in Belgium or West Germany would not have a driver's seat height adjuster, central locking, radio-cassette, stereo speaker fittings or wiring, full-size spare wheel or heated washer jets, plus a wide-angle door mirror as in Britain. The car here with those extra fittings is £9,237, in Belgium £8,929 and in Germany £9,550.

Despite that evidence, the suspicions are still strong that the motor industry has a case to answer. Why, for example, can buyers not have basic specification cars as abroad and then make their choices on extra items? Record sales suggest British buyers are willing to pay for the car of their choice at whatever price.

Government moves to plug gaps in union laws

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE Government yesterday moved to "plug" loopholes in the employment Bill now before Parliament just six days after Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, had described the attempt to rig the transport union workers' ballot as "disgraceful".

The announcement was immediately condemned by Mr Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, as "a crude campaign against the unions". The first amendment to be introduced to the Bill, which is primarily aimed at outlawing wildcat strikes, will give union members a chance to challenge their leaders' choice of an independent scrutineer for union elections.

The amendment will require unions to announce the name of the scrutineer in advance of the election and include his name on each voting paper. Government sources said yesterday the attempt to tamper with the elections for the national executive committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union was spotted by the Electoral Reform Society, and not the scrutineer nominated by the union.

The Serious Crime Squad, who were called in by Mr Ron Todd, the union's general secretary, is still investigating the allegations that more than 9,000 votes were illegally cast in favour of left-wing candidates. The second amendment to the Bill is planned to stop shop stewards from organizing unofficial action following

a strike ballot. It will require unions to specify on the voting paper who will call the strike if there is a majority in favour of taking action.

If a strike is called by someone whose name is not on the voting paper, it will be unlawful. If the Bill becomes law, shop stewards would be prevented from calling for strike action before the outcome of the ballot had been considered by the leadership of a union.

Mr Howard said yesterday: "These changes in the law are a natural extension of our legislation, which has given union members the right to elect their leaders by postal ballot and to decide for themselves whether or not to go on strike by voting in a secret ballot."

Last week, Mr Howard said: "The disgraceful attempt to rig the TGWU election might never have come to light in the first place but for the Government's legislation requiring such elections to be conducted by postal ballot under independent scrutiny."

Mr Blair, however, said: "This is a pathetic attempt by Mr Howard to play politics with trade unions, refighting the battles of the 1980s because he has lost those of the 1990s — training, skills and the rights of people at work."

Mr John Monks, the TUC deputy general secretary said: "It is one thing to support properly held ballots. It is quite another to overload the balloting process with a vast array of detailed and cumbersome legal rules."

Captain attends M1 crash inquest

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

CAPTAIN Kevin Hunt sat in his wheelchair in the library of a Leicestershire country house yesterday and stared expressionless at the floor as the names of the 47 passengers who died in the Boeing 737-400 he was piloting on the night of Sunday, January 8, 1989, were read out by the coroner at the opening of the inquest into the victims of the M1 air crash.

Neither he nor his first officer, David McClelland, need have been at the hearing but both decided to attend for personal reasons. Shortly before 10am Captain Hunt was driven into the courtyard of Prestwold Hall near Loughborough by his wife, Joan, and was then pushed by Mr McClelland through the ranks of news cameramen anxious to obtain the first picture of the crew who had apparently mistakenly shut down the right-hand engine of the jet when it was the left-hand engine that was damaged.

As relatives of the victims were ushered into the drawing room of the 19th-century house, Captain Hunt and Mr McClelland sat quietly in the library only able to catch a glimpse of the coroner through connecting doors.

For nearly three hours they listened as medical evidence of the injuries each of the victims received when the jet ploughed in to an embankment short of the runway of East Midlands airport.

Over the next few weeks 41 witnesses will be heard including seven from the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch and — finally — from Captain Hunt and Mr McClelland themselves.



Captain Hunt arrives for the opening of the inquest into the Kegworth air crash

MoD prepares to do battle on spending

By Philip Webster and Michael Evans

THE Prime Minister is to resist Treasury attempts to put a firm price on the so-called "peace dividend" arising from the changing atmosphere in Eastern Europe.

With Whitehall departments mobilizing for what is already being hailed as the toughest public spending round since 1979, reports yesterday suggesting that Mr John Major, the Chancellor, was looking for a £1 billion slice out of next year's defence budget were widely seen as the first shot in a battle that will continue to the autumn.

They were immediately seen as the Treasury's opening bid for its negotiations with the Ministry of Defence to cut back on its estimated spending for next year of £21.2 billion. But it was quickly made plain in Whitehall that while long-term savings are expected from the easing of tensions, Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, will be supported by Mrs Thatcher in opposing any suggestion of a cut of such magnitude so quickly.

Mr Major has the Ministry of Defence in his sights because of the potential for cuts arising from the reduced military threat.

Yesterday Treasury officials said that although the negotiations with the spending departments were at an early stage, ministers were already beginning to put in their bids for next year. "These early stages are very important, especially because of the warning from the Chancellor that budgets are going to be tight," one official said.

However any attempt to reduce the defence budget by a substantial amount would be viewed as unreasonable and impractical, according to Min-

istry of Defence sources. The ministry's budget for next year is complicated by the fact that the ministry is now engaged in a review of the options for changing the structure of the three armed forces in the light of the developments in Eastern Europe and the crumbling of the Warsaw Pact as a military alliance.

Although Mr King accepts that there may eventually be a "peace dividend", he also wants a "service dividend", by which he means a switching of funds for improving conditions for servicemen and women.

He stated in recent evidence to the Commons Defence Committee that so far his team examining the options for change had failed to find ways of saving money in the short term. Relocation of servicemen and improved equipment in key areas would reduce the opportunities for making cuts.

Ashdown urges rail inquiry

MR PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has called for an investigation into a "rebellion" by rail passengers at Yeovil on Bank Holiday Monday.

Mr Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, said trouble erupted when day trippers arrived at Pen Mill station in Yeovil, Somerset, to find the holiday special to Weymouth had only two carriages. Passengers tried to cram themselves on the train, causing chaotic scenes.

Marsh for trial

Magistrates at Barking, Essex, yesterday committed the boxer Terry Marsh, aged 32, to stand trial at the Central Criminal Court for attempting to murder his former manager, Frank Warren, last November. Marsh was remanded in custody after an application for bail was refused.

Childline grant

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, announced that the Government is giving £300,000 over the next three years to Childline to help tackle the "scourge of child abuse". The minister met Esther Rantzen, the helpline's chairman, at its London headquarters.

Arts audit

The Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Royal Opera are to be among 31 companies examined by the Arts Council this year in a three-year programme of investigating organizations funded through the council. The schedule will be announced this week.

Farmers 'ignoring' egg check rules

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

MANY poultry farmers are failing to carry out legally required salmonella tests on their flocks, and the Government is not providing the resources and information needed for proper enforcement of the regulations, trading standards officers said yesterday.

Under regulations introduced last year after the furore over salmonella in eggs, all poultry flocks laying eggs for human consumption must be tested for salmonella every 12 weeks. Any flock found to

contain infected birds has to be slaughtered. About 1.2 million birds have so far been destroyed.

Mr Keith Pulman, the secretary of the United Kingdom Egg Producers Association, said: "We have urged all our members to obey the testing rules, but the word has not yet got down to all the smaller producers."

In one area, North Yorkshire, trading standards officers reported yesterday that 212 of 231 poultry farms visited during the first three months of this year were found not to be testing their flocks. Mr Graham Venn, assistant county

trading standards officer, said: "Of these 231 farms, 82 had flocks of 100 birds or more, and of these only 11 had done tests and only four had notified the results to the Ministry of Agriculture."

It is not yet clear whether North Yorkshire is typical of Britain as a whole, but provisional reports from other counties indicate a high level of non-compliance.

Mr David Maclean, the parliamentary secretary at the ministry responsible for food safety, said farmers who sought to dodge the testing rules would give "eggs a bad name once again".

Police issue pictures as bogus social workers strike again

By Peter Davenport

DETECTIVES hunting bogus social workers who try to examine young children yesterday issued photofits of the couple in the latest incident in South Yorkshire.

They were released as police in Manchester and Dorset reported two more attempts by couples to examine children, both of which failed.

There have been nine such incidents in South Yorkshire. A special investigation team in Rotherham is looking into those and other cases reported in West Yorkshire, Humberside, Cheshire, Wiltshire and Somerset.

The man involved in the incident at Park Hill, South

Yorkshire, on Friday is described as white, aged 36 to 37, 5 ft 6 in to 5 ft 7 in tall, medium build with short mousey-coloured hair and moustache. The woman is white, 26 to 27, 5 ft 2 in to 5 ft 3 in tall, slim with fair, collar-length hair cut in a bob style.



Wanted couple: photofits of the man and woman who tried to examine a child last Friday



Choctaw reaffirm Irish link

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE American Indians are coming to Ireland this month to reaffirm a little known but fascinating historical link with Ireland's poor that goes back to the terrible times of the great famine 143 years ago.

On May 26, Chief Hollis E Roberts and other members of the Choctaw will lead an annual sponsored walk in Co Mayo commemorating an anguished trek by 600 starving Irish men, women and children in search of food at the height of the famine in 1847.

The walk, from Doolough to Louisburgh, is organized by the charity Action From Ireland, which hopes to raise £7,000 to support projects in Third World countries and will this year be called "The Trail of Tears". Mr Don Mullan, director of the charity,

said yesterday that the presence of Chief Roberts was a chance for Ireland to express "our gratitude to the descendants of a caring and compassionate people".

The link goes back to a gesture in 1847 by the Choctaw, who, having suffered catastrophic hardships of their own at the hands of settlers, decided to make a contribution to alleviate suffering in Ireland. In 1831, after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the government of President Jackson forcibly moved the Choctaw to Oklahoma. By the end of the 500-mile trek around 14,000 Choctaw were dead. The Indians have remembered it as The Trail of Tears.

While coping with the trauma the Indians heard of Ire-

land's famine and their chief ordered a gathering at which the large sum of £710 was collected and sent to Ireland.

"This walk symbolizes the continued suffering of millions of human beings upon our planet today, who die of hunger and hunger-related diseases, caused by the same injustice and human rights violations, which crushed so many Irish and American Indians in the last century," Mr Mullan said.

During The Times overseas: Australia \$2.50, Belgium 8 Fr 50, Canada \$2.50, Denmark 10 Kr 50, France 10 Fr 50, Germany 10 DM 50, Greece 10 Dr 50, Hong Kong 10 HK\$ 50, Ireland 10 Ir£ 50, Italy 10 L 50, Japan 10 ¥ 50, Luxembourg 10 L 50, Netherlands 10 G 50, Norway 10 Kr 50, Portugal 10 Esc 50, Spain 10 Ptas 50, Sweden 10 Kr 50, Switzerland 10 Sfr 50, Taiwan 10 Nts 50, USA \$2.50.

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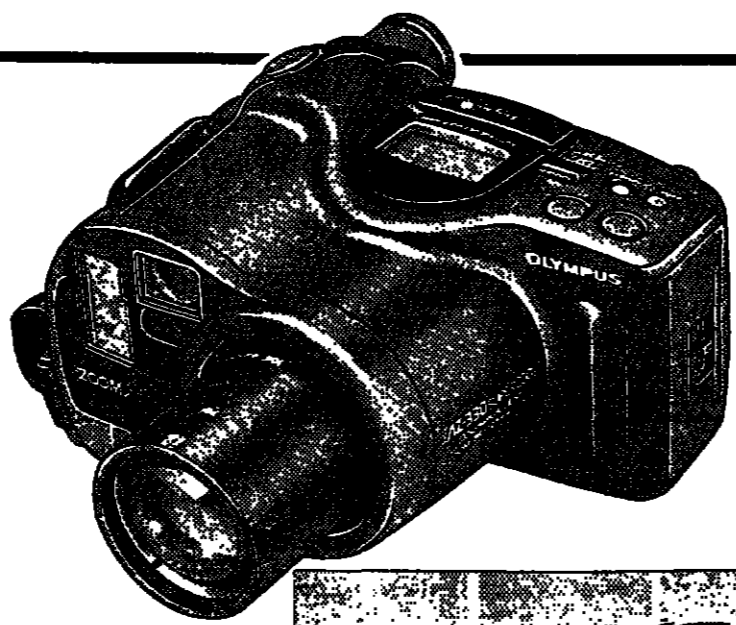
The Olympus AZ330 may look like a designer's vision of the future, but it's available now - at Wallace Heaton.

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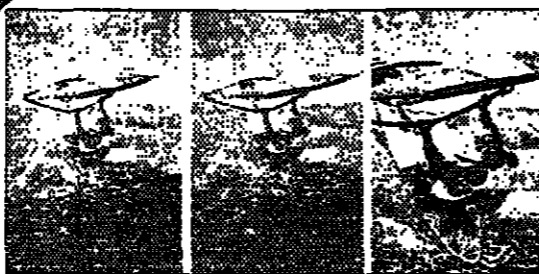
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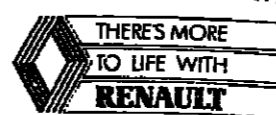
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مركز من الأما

Rifkind to assuage angst over poll tax at Scots conference

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

MR MALCOLM Rifkind will today cite Scotland's experience of the poll tax as a way of steadying the nerves of English Tory backbenchers still pressing for substantial changes in the new charge.

On the first day of the Scottish Conservative Party Conference in Aberdeen, the Secretary of State for Scotland will argue that the community charge has not led to any serious slippage in the Tory vote north of the border. He will advise his English colleagues that if they can follow the Scottish example of avoiding major splits and defections over the issue, they can look forward to recapturing the backing of their traditional supporters.

Reminding them of the battering the Conservatives took in Scotland over the

introduction of the charge a year earlier than in England and Wales, he will suggest that now is the time to show some "backbone" in facing their critics. None the less, as anxious Tory MPs south of the border pour over the results of the council elections, there will be many who would be horrified at the thought that they have anything to learn from Scotland, where the Conservative Party, beaten into third place behind the Scottish Nationalists in the council poll, have become an endangered species.

Nor have the Scottish Tories yet succeeded in presenting a totally united front as they gather in Aberdeen. Mr Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, has sought to puncture the euphoria generated by the latest council elections and spoken against the shift to the right under the

chairmanship of Mr Michael Forsyth. Mr Bill Walker, the Tory MP for North Tayside, rebuked him angrily, saying his comments on television 48 hours before the poll were "most damaging" to the Conservatives' electoral prospects.

More than 1,000 representatives of local Scottish Conservative associations are expected to attend the three-day meeting, which will end with the Prime Minister's first speech since last week's council elections and which will include contributions from a host of Cabinet ministers. Rank-and-file morale, dented by the Tories' disastrous general election performance in which they lost 11 of their 21 MPs and by dismal opinion poll ratings, has been given a fillip by the council elections, which resulted in only a handful of net losses.

The Tories polled 19.5 per cent of the

vote in last week's regional elections, slightly up on their 1986 figure of 16.9 per cent and quite appreciably higher than the 15 per cent they were given in an opinion poll last month. Add to that another 2 or 3 per cent to compensate for the Tory votes siphoned off by the strong independent presence in the local elections, and the Conservatives are within hailing distance of the 24 per cent they scored in the debacle of 1987.

Labour's 44 per cent in the council elections was in line with their performance four years ago, but well down on their recent poll rating of 53 per cent. It is against that background that Mr Rifkind will argue that the community charge need not be a vote loser for the Conservatives at the next general election. He believes that the council elections provide evidence that the

debate about local government finance in Scotland has matured into a hard-headed comparison between the rival merits of the community charge on the one hand and the alternatives offered by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

He will also maintain that this is an argument the Tories can win, at least with their natural supporters, by pointing to their success in flushing out the Opposition to the extent that they were forced to put a figure on their roof tax. Mr Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish Secretary, went a lot further than his southern counterparts by saying that the average two-earner family would have to pay £487 under Labour's proposals, rather less than the average £612 bill faced by couples paying the poll tax.

Mr Rifkind, who is likely to counsel against sweeping changes as a result of

the Government's review of the operation of the community charge, believes that the Scottish experience is likely to be repeated in England and Wales, with greater scrutiny being applied to the rival alternatives and a firming of the vote among natural Tory supporters. In support of this contention, Mr Rifkind is pointing to the greatly improved support in his Edinburgh Pentlands constituency and Mr Forsyth's Stirling seat.

Unlike the last two Scottish Tory conferences, this one is unlikely to be riven by internal divisions of real substance. This year's conference also marks a break with tradition in that the venue has been switched from the Conservative stronghold of Perth to Aberdeen, an area in which the party used to be strong but lost four seats at the last election.

MPs seek urgent action to raise teachers' morale

By David Tyler, Education Editor

SEVERAL million pounds will have to be found by the Government to improve teachers' morale, provide adequate salaries and bring schools up to a decent standard of repair, according to an all-party committee of MPs.

The report of the Commons Education, Science and Arts Committee, published yesterday, also calls for a general teaching council to supervise and advise the profession — a proposal rejected by the Government because of a lack of agreement among the six teacher unions.

The report says the imposed 8.3 per cent pay deal should be paid at once and not staged, as demanded by the Treasury, and says teacher morale could also be improved if schools were properly maintained and there was better discipline in the classroom.

mends that the London allowances should be increased and extended to the whole of the South-east, and be funded by central government. It also suggests that local authorities might consider paying off the student loans of newly trained teachers.

The Government maintains there are only real difficulties in mathematics, science, and technology. The select committee, however, says: "Vacancy rates are relatively high in computer studies, drama and music. Many schools have difficulty providing properly qualified teaching in mathematics, physics, design and technology and modern languages particularly, but also in religious education, early years education and business studies."

for the teacher who wishes to remain in the classroom rather than take on an administrative or managerial function. Extra resources should be provided so that incentive allowances and mid-career salaries can be increased in value and can take up a greater proportion of the salary bill without jeopardizing increases in the main scale.

Morale

The committee says that it is important to improve the morale of teachers who believe they are being misjudged and undervalued. The report says high morale distinguishes a good school from a poor one. "It comes from a feeling among the teaching staff that their contribution is appreciated by their head, by parents, local education authorities, government and society in general. It comes from teachers having some opportunity to involve themselves in the conditions of their profession."

"It comes from parents and parent-teacher associations showing a real interest in what is going on in the classroom and in being supportive of the teaching staff, particularly over matters of discipline."

"It comes from clean and pleasant school buildings, it comes from a working day that leaves some time for thinking about pupils and their needs, and from the satisfaction of teaching children who want to learn and seeing the results."

The committee concludes that morale could be improved by better pay and conditions and a genuine effort to treat teachers as professionals. It suggests that could be helped by the setting up of a general teaching council to oversee the profession.

Future supply

Another 50,000 to 100,000 more teachers will be required to deliver the National Curriculum, above the Department of Education's 416,000 estimate. The committee says. Every 10,000 extra teachers needed for the curriculum will add £170 million to the salary bill.

The recommendations

The select committee on education recommends:

The setting up of a general teaching council to oversee the profession;

Practical training in managing the classroom and dealing with poor discipline;

Extra money should be made available urgently to bring all schools up to a standard of good repair, to maintain good levels of equipment and to provide ancillary help;

Local education authorities should recruit more supply teachers attached to specific schools and ensure that they are properly trained;

Appropriately-qualified people with proven experience as mathematics, science and computing teachers should be paid on a high scale;

The DES should investigate how student teachers paid bursaries in shortage subjects can return the money if they

fail to enter the classroom on qualifying;

A new grant for education authorities should be introduced, based on an index of costs and social difficulties to enable those with difficulties to supplement teachers' pay, for example housing costs;

The Government should establish and publish an evaluation of costs in inner and outer London and in the South-east as a whole;

An allowance should be payable in all parts of the South-east where housing costs are similar to those in Greater London;

The DES should provide more information about the teaching force more quickly;

Schemes allowing schools to run their own financial affairs should reflect the real costs of teachers and allow them to recruit and keep a well-balanced teaching staff.

Three crew injured in ship blast

THREE badly burned seamen were rescued after an explosion on a bulk carrier 60 miles south-west of Land's End yesterday. A Royal Navy helicopter and an RAF Nimrod took part in the operation to fly the injured crewmen to hospital in Plymouth.

The men were in the hold of the Taiwanese-owned *Trave Ore*, when an explosion, the cause of which is not yet known, blew off a hatch.

Theft inquiry

Six people who work in the accounts department of Hull bus company, which is owned by the city council, have been arrested by police investigating alleged theft. Four have been released on bail and two are still being questioned.

Water charge

Mid-Sussex Water was sent for trial at Lewes Crown Court yesterday accused of polluting the water supply of the village of West Fife, East Sussex. The privately owned company allegedly allowed diesel oil to seep into wells in the village.

Hard swallow

A woman swallowed her engagement ring to prevent a robber stealing it in Bradwell, Buckinghamshire.

Late opening

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, was late for the opening of Hedge End station, Hampshire, yesterday because his train was delayed. "All mechanical things are bound to break down sometimes," British Rail said.



Man and wife: David Quirke and his portrayal of his pregnant wife, Vanessa, entitled "Two for Joy", for which he receives the Royal Society of Portrait Painters' Carroll Award today. The society's exhibition opens in London tomorrow

Kinnock praises local press

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

MR NEIL Kinnock yesterday accused national newspapers of bias and sensationalism, while praising the dependability of the local press.

Speaking at the UK Press Gazette regional press awards, Mr Kinnock said it was daunting to be confronted by so many journalists who could take shorthand and editors who wrote editorials. "And the usual experience in the contacts I have from time to time with the national press."

Local newspapers were the most dependable source of information and did not dish up a perpetual dish of sensationalism. "Their campaigns are an authentic commitment to real issues of local concern, and the condition of their success and their greatest strength and value is that they live with their readers in a way that national newspapers can't or don't — and won't."

Vetoed officer withdraws

By Craig Seton

MR JOHN Wesely, whose appointment as Chief Constable of Derbyshire was vetoed by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, withdrew "with some reluctance" his application for the post yesterday.

The Labour-controlled police authority immediately offered the job to Mr John Newing, deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Mr Wesely's sudden decision to withdraw broke the deadlock between the authority and Mr Waddington, who used his powers under the Police Act 1964 to veto the appointment.

An appointments panel had offered the job to Mr Wesely in spite of Mr Waddington's refusal to endorse him when he applied for the job in February. Mr Wesely withdrew in a letter yesterday saying the panel which appointed him met to finalize plans to seek a High Court judicial review of the veto.

The authority said yesterday that Mr Waddington had behaved in a "lamentable"

manner by overruling the local choice of chief constable. Mr Wesely was offered the job as chief constable subject to the Home Secretary's approval.

Mr Wesely, aged 52, is the force's deputy chief constable and is to remain in that post under Mr Newing, who had been interviewed twice for the post of chief constable. Mr Wesely said in his letter that a judicial review would take

many months and was likely to lead to further controversy, creating unnecessary pressure on himself and members of the force. "In view of the current situation, and in the interests of the force, it is with some reluctance that I wish to withdraw my application."

Mr Wesely has been acting chief constable since February and is expected to remain so until Mr Newing takes over at the beginning of next month.

Mr Newing said of Mr Wesely, with whom he spoke yesterday: "He has been extremely supportive and I am looking forward to working with him. I am delighted that I will be working for a police authority which has shown so much loyalty to one of its senior officers."

Mr Newing, aged 50, deputy assistant commissioner since 1985, has been on secondment to the Home Office leading a team developing the new Police National Computer. He was, from 1977 to 1980, staff officer to Sir David McNee, the then Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Mr Newing: Work on police computer

Ozone link to rise in skin cancer

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

DEPLETION of the Earth's ozone layer is causing an increase in a potentially fatal form of skin cancer, specialists say yesterday.

About 1,000 people a year in Britain are dying from melanoma caused by excess exposure to the sun's ultraviolet light. The ozone layer acts as a protective screen against the rays.

The disease is becoming more common among teenagers and young adults, Dr Amar Dhillon, senior lecturer in pathology at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, said. Dr Dhillon and Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist at the hospital, hope to launch a trial of a computerized analysis system that may help in early diagnosis of the condition.

"The rising incidence of melanoma is likely to continue as the ozone layer deteriorates further and increases leisure time permits more outdoor activities," Dr Dhillon said. "The disease can be cured by early treatment but it could be prevented by advising people that getting brown from sunbathing may be a dangerous pastime."

Professor Malcolm Greaves, professor of dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, central London, gives similar warning in the current issue of the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians* in London. He points to reduction in the ozone layer and changes in leisure activities as significant factors.

BBC finds purpose-built room for the written word

By Robin Young

THE BBC's 27,500 employees can now clear their desks. The corporation's written archive has at last obtained 14,000 extra square feet of storage space in the grounds of the monitoring unit at Caversham Park, Reading, to replace eight overstuffed Portakabins, which have been straining to contain the richest and liveliest record of 20th-century life in Britain.

The new space has cost the BBC £1.3 million, at a time, the corporate planners announced yesterday, of acute stringency.

Miss Jacqueline Kavanagh, the BBC's written archives officer, has been asking for extra accommodation for the past 16 years, and

reckons her wish has been granted just in time to prevent material loss of records, letters, scripts, and memoranda stored up in departmental filing cabinets and folders all round the country.

Opening the new purpose-built building yesterday the chairman of the BBC, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, said: "The *News of the World* used to market itself with a slogan: 'All Human Life Is Here'. Of course, it was not — but we could really claim that we do have it here. This is an archivist's dream, an Aladdin's Cave. All sorts of famous people have part of their lives enshrined for ever here."

A small exhibition arranged for the occasion gives some hint of the

diversity of material in the archive's 260,000 files. There are letters from T S Eliot writing to George Orwell, who, as Eric Blair, was a BBC producer; from E M Forster, Sir Max Beerbohm, Samuel Beckett, Olivia Manning, Dame Edith Sitwell, W H Auden, and Louis MacNeice, another former BBC producer.

George Bernard Shaw writes to Lord Reith proposing that the BBC should commission a symphony from Edward Elgar, following the example of the London Philharmonic Society in commissioning Beethoven's Ninth, which he describes as "by far the most creditable incident in English history". Sir Edward Elgar later writes

to acknowledge receipt of a cheque. Dylan Thomas, a little later, writes urgently: "And, if it is possible to get a little money soon, could it be got somehow, straight to me, and not through my agent, d'you think. I'm in a hell of a money mess, sued on all sides ... worried to death, ill with it."

Miss Kavanagh says some items are retrieved from unexpected places. For example, the engineering log for the announcement of the outbreak of the Second World War was recovered by a trainee from a rubbish bin at the Maida Vale studios.

One exhibit which drew a gasp from Mr Hussey was a short letter from Lord Haisham of St Maryle-

bone, then Conservative Party chairman, thanking the BBC for its coverage of the Labour Party conference in its 1957 news bulletins, and commenting that it was vital in a democracy for people to have the full facts before them. For the sake of balance, though, there are also letters from Hugh Gaitskell thanking the BBC as well.

A file concerning the 1948 broadcast of J B Priestley's play, *An Inspector Calls*, reflects the BBC's concern over proper language. A list of words submitted for higher approval shows that Priestley was allowed to get away with a dozen mild blasphemisms, but lost one "damn", one "devil of a", one "damned", and one "my God!"

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Controls needed on loans to those who are already in debt

By Ruth Gledhill

NEW safeguards are needed to discourage lenders from making loans to people already in debt, the National Consumer Council said yesterday. In a report published yesterday, the council predicted a rise in debt difficulties as more people take out second mortgages to pay for luxuries, and as house prices fall.

The report said lenders should make better checks on people's ability to repay their debts, and seek information about mortgage arrears and secured loans: if lenders fail to make proper checks, courts should have the power to write off unpaid debts.

Most people are still able to repay their debts, despite an increase in personal borrowing from £11 billion 10 years ago to more than £43 billion today, excluding mortgages. That could change soon because many people are being lent money that they have little or no hope of repaying, and do not appreciate that they could lose their homes for the sake of a holiday or a new car.

The report *Credit and Debt: The Consumer Interest* examines 10 years of credit and debt in Britain using sources such as the banking industry, building societies, money advice services, the Office of Fair Trading and the Policy Studies Institute. When the council published its first investigation of consumer credit 10 years ago, 3 per cent of survey respondents had credit problems: that number has risen to 10 per cent. However, the evidence suggests that it is the same people using more credit rather than a large increase in new credit users.

The number of households unable to meet their commitments had risen from 1.3 million in 1981 to more than 2 million by 1987. People's debts are becoming more complex and there has been a marked increase in the number of homes repossessed because of mortgage difficulties. Most people still do not

understand terms such as annual percentage rate and do not shop around for the cheapest rate. As a result, credit charges are higher than they need be and there is little competitive pressure to bring down interest rates.

One of the problems is that the people least able to afford high interest rates are those paying them. Credit use is highest among the better off and people aged 35-45, but people on low incomes who have children are most at risk of running up debts. The average amount of credit owed per household has risen from £600 in 1980 to £2,300. If mortgage commitments are included, there has been a rise from £3,000 per household to £13,000.

The report registered particular concern about home equity loans, which are secured against property and allow up to 80 per cent of the capital value of a house to be converted to credit, often using a cheque book or credit card. It cites an American survey which concluded that home equity loans were the biggest single threat to the financial well-being of consumers, who face a risk of rapid over-commitment or insolvency.

Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said: "We want to prevent over-enthusiastic use of credit by indiscriminating and poorly-informed consumers. Many people are still forced by

necessity to borrow, sometimes on contracts they do not understand and at rates they may not be able to afford."

Weekly rents for council tenants across England have risen by 16 per cent from April compared with Government guidelines of 10 per cent, the Association of District Councils states in a survey published today (Christopher Warman writes).

The association, representing 295 English non-metropolitan districts, says in its report, *ADC Survey on Council Rents, Housing Subsidy and Capital Expenditure*, that rents would have had to increase by 22 per cent had not many districts been able to cushion the effects of the changeover to the new local government housing finance system by using up cash balances carried over from the old system.

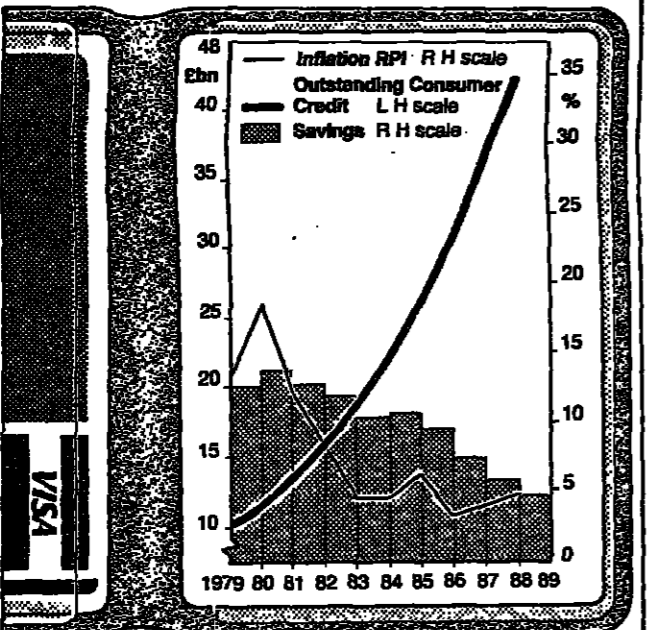
The association suggests that, in future, large rent increases are likely unless the Government agrees to proceed more slowly towards its goal of relating rents to the capital value of housing.

An estimated fall in total capital expenditure from £1.9 billion in 1989-90 to £1.4 billion in 1990-91 and £0.9 billion in 1991-92 is causing concern to the association, which fears the reduction could wipe out most of the remaining building of low-cost social housing.

Households accepted for rehousing by local authorities where main reason is mortgage default or arrears, England and Wales, 1979-88

Year	Households
1979	2,000
1980	2,500
1981	3,600
1982	4,400
1983	4,800
1984	6,300
1985	8,600
1986	10,200
1987	10,600
June 87-88	9,600

Source: *Hansard*, June 27, 1988, and October 25, 1988



ANALYSIS

Putting off day of reckoning

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

THE average household owed £600 at the beginning of the 1980s and £2,300 by the end of the decade, without taking mortgages into account, according to the National Consumer Council. Mortgages also increased dramatically over the same period.

Interest rates may have risen rapidly over the past two years, but the British appetite for credit has not waned. It has, indeed, been fed by the loan merchants keen to replace the lucrative mortgage business with equally profitable low start loans and second mortgages.

In many parts of Britain, the high interest rates are causing people to take out new loans in an attempt to keep homes they can no longer afford, but cannot sell. Advertisements target those who are struggling to pay their bills. Companies even specialize in lending to those who have county court orders against them and cannot get loans from banks.

Financial institutions still offer instant loans through junk mail. Rates are often higher than banks and building societies, but there is no embarrassing interview for the borrower.

Brokers, building societies and banks are offering to remortgage properties, releasing money to pay other debts and reducing the monthly payments into the bargain. They do this by offering deferred-interest or low-start loans. For anyone struggling to meet monthly payments, low-start loans that allow borrowers to pay off credit cards and other debts are attractive. But loans that defer up to 7 per cent of the annual interest charged are storing up trouble for hundreds of thousands of people. The payments will rise

rapidly to their true interest level and if property prices fall, the loan could soon exceed the value of the home.

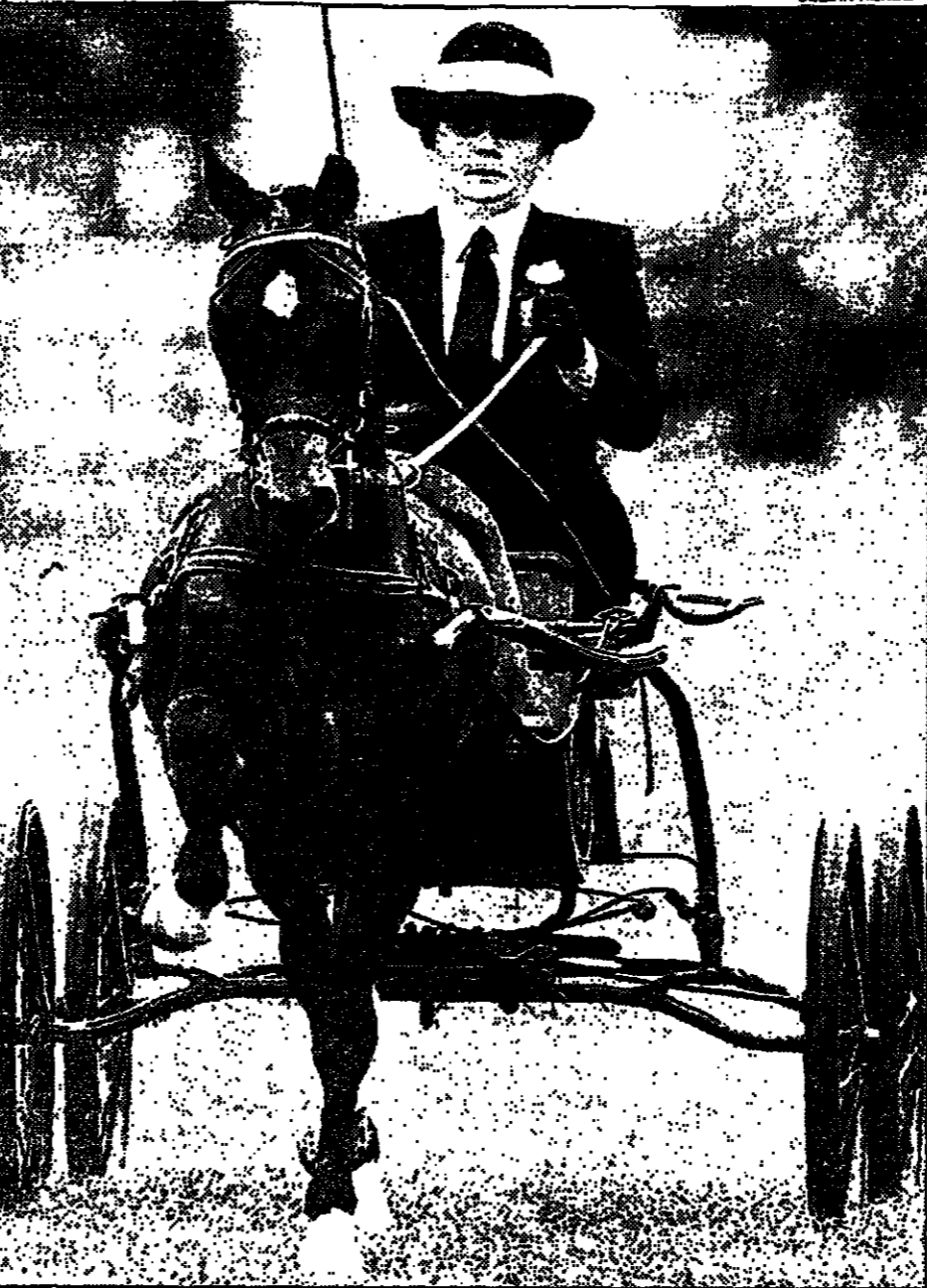
The Building Societies Commission is concerned about the rise in this market, which is risky for both borrower and lender, and is soon to limit the number of such loans that building societies can make each year.

But, unfortunately, borrowers seem to find it easier to negotiate a new, bigger loan through a broker than to speak to the companies to which they owe money. Last week the National Consumer Council pointed out that too many people in arrears do not talk to their lender.

It is much easier to take on a new loan than to admit an old one has gone sour. Advertisements for consolidation loans, which give a telephone number to contact day or night, succeed because of their very anonymity. The loans, secured on the debtor's home, can put that home in jeopardy if payments are not sustained.

Many advertisements fail to make this clear and do not give due prominence to the annual percentage rate charged. The Director General of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, has said he will get tough with companies flouting advertisement regulations introduced in February.

But the wealth warnings are likely to have little effect on people in debt who believe they can buy themselves time. They think interest rates will come down as suddenly as they went up; that house prices will start to rise and that their problems will be over. Unfortunately for too many, they are just delaying the day when they have to face up to their debts.



Pauline Peters driving Brookfield Canadian Boy in the Novice Hackney Pony class at Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. The show runs until Sunday

Half of GPs barred from budget plan

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

SHORTCOMINGS in general practice computing and surgery management have whittled down the number of doctors who will pioneer one of the most radical of the Government's health reforms.

An initial assessment by regional health authorities and the Department of Health suggests that only about half of the 850 practices interested in holding their own budgets and negotiating contracts with hospitals will begin serious preparations for the scheme starting next April.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, however, is understood to be pleased both with the quality of the 400 practices going forward to the preparatory year and with the response from family doctors to one of the most contentious elements in the NHS and Community Care Bill now going through Parliament.

According to Department of Health sources, regional health authorities have had to reject about 450 volunteers because they lacked the computer back-up and practice managers to operate the new system. This will involve practices of at least 9,000 patients being given budgets of around £1 million to cover the costs of diagnostic tests and hospitalization for routine surgery such as hip replacements and cataract operations.

Only practices with computerized medical records

have been able to go forward because this is the only feasible way of rapidly supplying information on GPs' referral patterns — an essential ingredient in calculating the size of the budgets to be spent.

However, the practices that have failed to make the grade this year have been earmarked as a "second wave" of budget holders to enter the scheme in April, 1992.

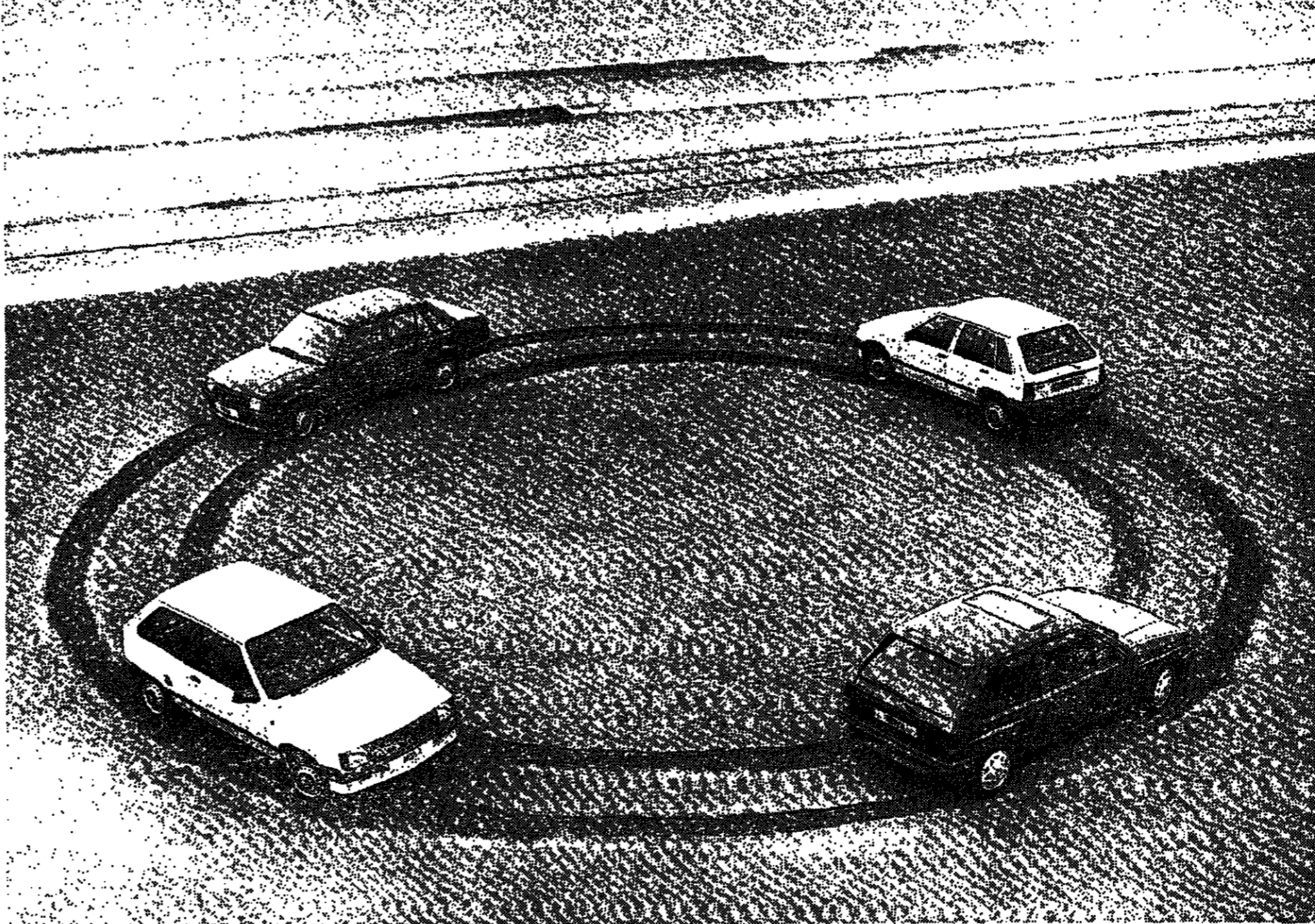
The Government was yesterday urged to put an end to the "humiliating and insensitive tests" that disabled people have to go through to prove their eligibility for social security benefits (Jill Sherman writes).

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that doctors' assessments of those applying for mobility and attendance allowances led to serious repercussions, including distress, lost benefits and delays.

A report from the association calls for a system of self assessment backed by additional evidence from carers and advocates with "relevant" experience. That would provide a much better reflection of the claimant's disability and its practical implications, the report argues.

Assessing the Assessors: Medical Assessments for Disability Benefits (Information Retrieval, NACAB, 115-123 Pentonville Road, London N1 9LZ. A4 28p see)

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0% APR	11.8%	13.5%	15.2%	15.2%
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24 months	£1,317	£1,517	£1,717	£1,917
36 months	£1,317	£1,517	£1,717	£1,917
Minimum deposit	£5 (5% of £1,000)	£5 (5% of £1,000)	£5 (5% of £1,000)	£5 (5% of £1,000)
Interest rate	NIL	5.9%	9.9%	15.2%
Monthly repayments	£282.20	£176.50	£148.20	£128.50
Total repaid	£3,386.40	£4,236.00	£5,335.20	£6,468.00

Our 0% rate applies to all Novas, not just to certain models.

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Simply put down the required deposit (or the equivalent trade-in value).

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VAUXHALL ONCE DRIVEN, FOREVER SMITTEN.

Court clerks sound alarm at controls by Home Office

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Home Office was strongly attacked yesterday by the leader of the justices' clerks in England and Wales as being "obsessed" with control of the criminal justice system to a degree that threatened judicial independence.

Mr Charles Paton Webb, president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, told members at their annual conference in Harrogate that their position was "being undermined".

The criticisms are among the strongest ever made by the usually low-profile justices' clerks, who run the magistrates' courts in England and Wales, and indicate the strength of feeling over Home Office plans to overhaul the administration of the courts.

Mr Paton Webb said the Home Office proposal for a nationalized probation service was likely to be used for the magistrates' courts.

Equivalent plans for a centralized system of administration for magistrates' courts have already been outlined in a Home Office scrutiny report.

Mr Paton Webb said courts must accept financial and management obligations highlighted in that report, but they

must also defend "to our last breath the undermining of constitutional cornerstones threatened by the scrutiny. Where is our safeguard against the danger of our priorities being determined at a higher level, whether it be area board, agency or government department, with little or no regard for the needs of our civil justice role or other important jurisdictions of magistrates?"

Ingredients essential to the administration of justice, such as "balance", were being put at risk with Home Office obsession with "control". Instead, if the present trend was pursued, courts would be striving "to cut our criminal case waiting times to achieve harder and harder centrally-set targets or to rival our identically sized nearest neighbouring division 50 miles away in the speed of their fine collection".

The justice system needed a protector who should be holding "a balance, not just a calculator". The initiators of criminal policy had a right to fight their corner, "but they should not be able to influence the way justice is administered either directly, by interfering

with judicial independence or indirectly via management strategy".

● A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday rebuked incompetent defence lawyers who fail to prepare cases on time. Judge Rant, QC, said more and more cases were being adjourned because the defence was not ready. He described the situation as "deplorable". He said: "Defence solicitors had better get used to the idea that cases will come on quickly, and make sure they are ready."

His comments came after he reluctantly granted defence applications in two cases to postpone the trial. The first involved the alleged sexual abuse of a girl aged eight. A defence barrister asked for the case to be adjourned so that solicitors could obtain further medical reports.

The second involved the alleged rape of a woman aged 19. The defence asked for more time to allow for a report on the effect of alcohol upon the defendant.

In both cases the victims had been brought to court to give evidence and then sent away again.



MISS Joan Scrimgeour, who is awaiting a kidney transplant, with Dr Gwyn Williams, a leading kidney specialist, who said yesterday that kidney transplant patients will live longer and suffer fewer side-effects of the operation if new research projects are successful.

About 1,500 people a year in Britain receive a new kidney, and more than 80 per cent can expect to survive at

least five years (Thomson Prentice writes). Rejection of the transplanted organ by the body's natural defences is, however, a significant problem that needs to be tackled urgently, Dr Williams, of Guy's Hospital, south-east London, said.

For reasons not fully understood, but which might be linked to the use of anti-rejection drugs, transplantation also leads to an increased risk of heart

disease and cancer in some patients. Dr Williams and colleagues are investigating ways to prevent the deterioration of kidneys after transplantation and to reduce the side-effects.

"The aim is to enable our patients to live longer, healthier lives without the need for a second transplant or a return to dialysis treatment," Dr Williams said. "There can be no real satisfaction until all forms of kidney

failure are beaten. It is realistic to hope that we will be able to give a 20-year-old patient a kidney that will last for a natural lifespan."

In spite of dialysis and transplantation, kidney disease is the fifth biggest cause of death in Britain. The projects at Guy's are being supported by the National Kidney Research Fund, which provides £1.7 million a year for research nationally.

Help with paying the Community Charge

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So don't miss out. If you think you might possibly be entitled to benefit, and you haven't already applied, do it now. Not everyone will qualify but you can't lose by claiming.

Ask your local council for a claim form now. Or, if you're unable to call in to their offices personally, you can always ask a friend to do so on your behalf. Alternatively, 'phone or write to your local council offices for a claim form at once.

You've nothing to lose by claiming and you may well gain.



**Remember –
return your claim form
by 27 May**

Gas 'tariff trap' costing £100m in wasted energy

By David Young

MORE than £100 million worth of energy is wasted each year by local authorities in England and Wales, much of it because the British Gas price structure means they can save money by burning more gas than they need.

The Audit Commission has found that one county council which had previously had a good record on saving energy now has more than half its social services homes and a quarter of its secondary schools caught in the British Gas "tariff trap".

Under the price structure which British Gas was forced to adopt after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on industrial gas pricing, customers can switch to contract gas rates once they start to use more than 25,000 therms a year. They then pay less for their gas than customers on the domestic tariff.

The Audit Commission has found, however, that many local authority buildings while actually using only 20,000 therms a year to maintain adequate services are burning an extra 5,000 therms to qualify for lower contract prices.

The commission calculates that one secondary school which cut its energy consumption by 20 per cent by reducing its gas burn from 26,000 therms to 20,800 therms a year would see its fuel bill increase by £620.

The commission says: "British Gas has recently made several improvements to its new tariff structure, but the fundamental problem of the tariff trap remains a serious impediment to energy efficiency and should be looked at again." British Gas said that the price structure

had been amended to smooth out differences between prices in the tariff structure and the contract structure. Customers using between 15,000 and 25,000 therms have been given a 2p a therm discount to bring the two prices closer.

The commission surveyed 300 local authorities in 1985 and suggested how consumption could be cut by 12 per cent and £100 million saved. However, it has found that only a few authorities have implemented all the measures.

Mr Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said: "In view of the relatively short payback of many efficiency measures and the long-term returns, it is sad to find authorities, particularly those under most financial pressure, reducing or limiting their energy investment budgets."

Success of 'problem pubs' curb

By David Young

POLICE forces are considering adopting a scheme introduced in South Wales, which is claimed to be winning the war against lager louts.

Landlords who serve customers they know are drunk face having their licences revoked under the scheme run by police at Blackwood, Gwent.

Yesterday the police announced that the project would be extended to the rest of the force area after drink-related arrests fell during the six-month trial period.

The project was launched in Gwent after new licensing laws were passed, which meant that landlords have to apply every three years for a renewal of their licence, rather than ever 12 months.

Police feared they would have to wait too long before being able to object to landlords of "problem pubs" re-applying for licences. Now landlords face a totting-up system, similar to the points system on a driving licence.

During the six-month trial period, public order arrests fell 13.5 from 177 in the same period last year to 153.



Mr Davies: Returns of efficiency measures –

F1SHY number fetches £18,000

A FISH merchant paid more than £18,000 yesterday for the car registration F1SHY.

Mr James Jack travelled from Fraserburgh, Grampian, to land his prize catch at an auction at Chelsea Harbour, London, of registrations released by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre.

His winning bid of £14,500 – a total of £18,342.50 with commission and VAT – was one of the highest prices at the auction. "I've looked for it for years," Mr Jack said.

A few years ago he contacted DVLC but was told the number was not available. Then he spotted it up for auction. "I didn't think I'd have to pay that much but now it's mine for life."

Another top price was paid by Mr Andrew Wong, an

interior designer, who bid £10,000 – £12,650 in total – to secure COL 1E, his wife Colette's nickname. "She will probably be embarrassed by it," he said.

Bidding had hovered around £9,000 when Mr Wong, from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, impatiently held up both hands and indicated £10,000. His wife would have her number plate on her own car, he said. He already has his daughter's name SOF 1Y on his own.

Mr Wong said he would keep looking for his own AND 1E and LOR 1E for his son.

Phillips hopes to raise a record £3,500,000 from the two-day sale of 617 registrations, the third to be held on the instructions of the Department of Transport.

Ministers doing 'all they can' for the hostages

MINISTERS will do everything they can to bring about the release of all hostages, short of making concessions or striking bargains with those who hold them, Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, said in the Commons yesterday.

He added, during question time, that the policy was guided by a desire for a safer, not a more dangerous, world and that British policy was "on all fours" with that of the United States.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, had asked him to

FOREIGN OFFICE

agree that there must be no deals which either rewarded hostage-taking or gave incentives to further hostage-taking.

"That being so, will Mr Hurd respond to the charges made by the released United States hostage, Mr Frank Reed, and the Syrian Foreign Minister, that we have not been sufficiently active in the release of hostages?"

He asked for an assurance that the Foreign Office was active, day in and day out, in efforts to secure the release of British hostages since British people were saying that, because hostages of other nationalities were being released, they had every right to expect the release of British hostages as well.

Mr Hurd: "They have every right to expect day in and day out efforts on our behalf to that end, and I assure him that those efforts continue."

He had every sympathy with Mr Reed, who had carried himself through a terrible ordeal, but he was not in a position to know anything about the efforts Britain had made on behalf of the British hostages. He did not regard the Syrian Foreign Minister as an entirely objective observer of these events.

Romania election concern

BRITAIN was still concerned — although there had been some progress towards free and fair elections in Romania — at the continuing allegations by some opposition parties that they were being unfairly treated during the election campaign, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said during Commons questions.

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Glasgow, C) said that it should be made clear to the Romanian authorities that the continuation of reconstruction funds depended on the elections being seen as free and fair.

Mr Waldegrave reaffirmed that not only Britain's support but also that of the European Community and the Group of 24 was "quite clearly conditional on progress and on the legitimacy of the next Government in Romania", and that depended on the fairness of the elections.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that the prospect of the election this month being fair and free was fast disappearing. "There is widespread intimidation of the democratic parties and their leaders, including physical harassment by the communist provisional Government."

There would be no independent scrutiny of the voting or counting procedures in the election, and the army would be taking the ballot boxes away for six days before the announcement of the results. Britain's EC partners should make clear that unless the situation was changed quickly there could be no aid or support if a fraudulent Government was returned.

Mr Waldegrave said that it was because of such concerns that Britain was paying for 12 extra observers from local government in Britain to observe the elections.

A "formidable duo" of Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) and Mrs Edwina Currie (South Derbyshire, C) would be there, as would 100 other Western observers.

Plea for dialogue on Lithuania

LEADING the people of Lithuania to expect help in their fight for independence of a kind that could not in reality be forthcoming from the West would be irresponsible, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the Commons.

Replying to a question about the situation in Lithuania, he said that the Government had repeatedly emphasized the need for progress through dialogue between the Soviet authorities and Lithuania so that a settlement, acceptable to both sides, could be reached, allowing the Lithuanian people to decide their own future.

"This was the theme of the Prime Minister's message to Mrs Pranasienė (Prime Minister of Lithuania) when the latter called on her at 10 Downing Street this morning," Mr Michael Jack (Fylde, C)

established with the problematic regimes of Syria and Iran".

Mr Hurd: "We follow up every lead and use every contact which we think might bring results."

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) raised the case of Mr Roger Cooper, languishing, he said, in prison for four years. He had been close to release last year when "certain events took place".

Mr Hurd: "We have three substantial problems with Iran: the hostages; Mr Cooper who has been in prison in Tehran for four-and-a-half years; and the Rushdie affair, where the Iranians maintain the threat to the life of a British citizen, as well as demands on the British Government in that respect that we could not meet. I have made clear that we have indirect contacts. I do not rule out direct contacts if we felt that they were likely to produce results, but the restoration of diplomatic relations is certainly not a matter for us alone."

"We broke with Syria in 1986 on the issue of state-sponsored terrorism, an issue which remains unresolved. We have had indirect contacts since then with them on behalf of the hostages."

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, suggested that since Britain had broken off diplomatic relations some time ago, with very good reason, with Syria and Libya, now that other governments had acknowledged that they were helpful in the release of hostages, it was time to reconsider.

Mr Hurd agreed that the Syrians had been able to help. "We do not remove the background I have mentioned and, at this stage, the future nature of our contacts with Syria must depend on the prospects of success."

Letters, page 15

Party broadcasts attacked

TV CHANGES

AN ATTEMPT to relieve commercial television channels of the requirement to show party political broadcasts failed in the Commons during the second day of the report stage of the Broadcasting Bill.

Mr Timothy Raison (Aylesbury, C), moving an amendment to end the obligation, shared with the BBC, said that party political broadcasts were not the highest of art forms. He would like to see an end to them altogether. He knew of no one who looked forward to seeing them as part of their regular television fare.

Research on the effects of party political broadcasts was undertaken by the broadcasters and the parties, but none was prepared to reveal the outcome of that research.

His experience of them was standing on St Stephen's Green, outside the Houses of Parliament, in a howling gale trying to persuade voters of the merits of buying council houses. He did not believe he had influenced anyone of the rightness of his cause.

To provide the same party political programmes on five channels could not be said to be fulfilling the intention of the Government to give diversity. Even the Derby and the Cup Final were not broadcast on all channels.

Mr Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that the importance of party political broadcasts was that they enabled parties to get across their messages unadorned by the editorial comment of broadcasters.

Most newspapers were sympathetic to the Conservative Party which enjoyed a predominance of coverage. Even coverage of the Commons concentrated on the Government of the day.

Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot, C) said that by proposing the end of party political broadcasts, Mr Raison deserved the gratitude of the nation.

The British liked nothing more than slumping in front of the television set from 6.30pm to 11.30, rising only for a call of nature or to switch channels.

Once the news dawned upon them that a much loved politician was to embark upon a five-minute broadcast of mendacity, assertion and amplification, they got up to prepare themselves a hot milk drink.

The Tory Party had earned the gratitude of the manufacturers of Ovaltine.

Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin, Lab) said that he would regret the abolition of party political broadcasts as the best means of mass communication. Some Conservatives might argue for paying for commercials on television in the horrendous way which occurred in other countries.

Mr Robert Cryer (Bradford South, Lab) said that most of the national and provincial press seemed to support the Conservative Party. Political broadcasts might be mocked, but they were a way of helping to retain the balance.

Mr Alistair Darling, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that on balance he thought that party political broadcasts ought to be kept even if they provided a boost for the Ovaltine industry.

If they were going to be shown everywhere, they had to be shown everywhere. It would not be right that the BBC should carry them but not other channels.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was important that parties had direct access to television. It was not too high a price for the absence of political advertising which there would otherwise have to be.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, moved an amendment the effect of which would be to stop Mr Rupert Murdoch and his UK companies from holding a licence to provide satellite or local cable and microwave television services.

He said that he mentioned Mr Murdoch by name because it would not be right to be mealy-mouthed about these matters. Mr Murdoch already had a substantial ownership of newspapers and magazines in the United Kingdom, as well as an expanding television interest.

In order to obtain ownership of American television com-



Greeks 'must free driver'

The Government came under pressure at question time in the Commons to press the Greek authorities to release Mr Panos Ashwell, the lorry driver arrested while allegedly transporting parts of an Iraqi supergun.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that immense harm was being done to relations between the two countries because of the driver's detention.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the Government accepted Mr Ashwell's innocence and would make clear to the Greek authorities the strong feeling in Britain.

Cannabis haul is bigger

Customs authorities seized 50.715 kilograms of cannabis, with a street value of £166,750,000 last year, according to provisional figures given by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, in a Commons written reply.

Both figures are the highest for any of the past 10 years, and compare with 1988 figures of 44,018 kilograms with a street value of £127,340,000.

New peer

Lord Morris of Castle Morris, formerly Mr Brian Morris, Principal of St David's University College, Lampeter, and chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, was introduced as a Labour peer.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister; Broadcasting Bill, third reading; Private Bill. Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, seventh day.

Ashdown boasts of party's 'London electoral asset'

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

MR PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, said yesterday that the local government elections had demonstrated that the Labour Party could not achieve the defeat of Mrs Margaret Thatcher on its own. It had failed to deliver the "killer blow".

Saying that the Liberal Democrat vote nationwide had been 18 per cent, a level of support hailed as a miracle when it was achieved under Mr Jeremy Thorpe at the general election in 1974, Mr Ashdown added: "There is only one third party now, and it is us."

At a press conference at Westminster after detailed scrutiny of the local election votes, he predicted: "Labour's lead is going to be trimmed back inevitably. Labour was suffering from a 'London effect', but the Liberal Democrats had shown by their consolidation in Richmond, Sutton and Tower Hamlets that they had a 'London asset'. The Liberal



Democrat leader said that Labour had advanced only in areas where his party was not strong; it had made progress only where there was a vacuum. "The case remains that we have pulled in votes the Labour Party cannot reach."

Mr Ashdown was at pains to deny the suggestion by commentators that the Liberal Democrat recovery was good news for Mrs Thatcher and her Government, insisting that, although the centre party recovery might help Labour in about thirty seats, there were many more seats where the Alliance had run the Conservatives close in second place in 1987.

Mr Ashdown, whose personal opinion poll ratings have improved by 10 percentage points over the past six months, said that the Liberal Democrat had now recovered from repairing "the terrible damage we did to the party and its image" over the two years after the general election. He added: "Putting the party back together again is now over."

He said that the Green Party had been repulsed in all areas of Liberal Democrat strength, although it had taken 8 per cent of the vote elsewhere.

He conceded, however, that his party had suffered in areas such as Milton Keynes, where they had been running the local authority with Conservatives.

Labour's 'safe marginal'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

MR ROY Hattersley launched Labour's campaign in the Bootle by-election yesterday, saying that the party would treat its fifth safest seat as if it were a marginal.

Opening the campaign in the Merseyside seat, the party's deputy leader said the key issues would be the poll tax, the state of the economy and the record of the Prime Minister and her Government.

He said Labour must produce a good result in Bootle to confirm that the party's support was surging throughout the country and that it was on course to win the next general election.

"The unavoidable and inevitable challenge in a safe Labour seat is to produce a result which demonstrates that Labour is surging ahead all over the country," Mr Hattersley said. "We over the country."

He was in Bootle to support Mr Mike Carr, a full-time Transport and General Workers' Union official, who, unless there is a political earthquake, will win the by-election caused by the death of Mr Allan Roberts. Mr Roberts had a majority of 2,477.

Mr Carr, aged 43 and married with four children, chaired the co-ordinating committee sent to run the Labour Party in Liverpool on the orders of the ruling national executive committee.

Mr Carr, who was born in Bootle, told a press conference yesterday that the main issue was the

poll tax; the local Sefton District Council has set a figure of £373. "So many people are worrying about how they are going to find the extra money to pay — people like my mother-in-law."

Later, Mr Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative Party, began his party's campaign with an attack on Mr Carr, whom he accused of rising without trace. "He is a Kinnock clone. His role is to be mute and invisible," Mr Baker said.

The Conservative candidate, Mr James Clappison, is making his second foray into solid Labour territory. In the last general election, Mr Clappison, aged 33 and a barrister, fought Barnsley East, which Labour won with a majority of 23,511. At the outset of his campaign Mr Clappison tried to exploit the difficulties Labour has faced with Militant Tendency on Merseyside.

He said: "The extreme left is still very much in place in the Labour Party in Merseyside. The selection of the Labour Party candidate in this constituency has caused a local uproar. It looks like nothing more than a cheap confidence trick to tell the people that Merseyside is free of left-wing influence."

Nominations for the by-election close tomorrow at noon. The only candidate whose nomination papers have been received is Mr Kevin White, who is standing for the Liberals. General election: A Roberts (Lab), 34,975; P Papworth (C), 10,498; P Denham (SDP/All), 6,820. Lab maj: 24,477.

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Soviet leadership puts on unity show at Moscow parade

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

LOOKING down the expanse of Gorky Street towards the red walls of the Kremlin yesterday morning, it was possible to imagine Moscow in the grip of a military coup. This broad shopping street was covered for its complete length with troop carriers, tanks and armoured cars. Soldiers directed the few pedestrians, checking passes at every crossroads.

Outside the immediate vicinity of the Kremlin, access to central Moscow was cut off by police and army officers patrolling shoulder to shoulder. Even on Gorky Street, however, the occasional shop was open and people were buying newspapers as usual at the kiosks. There was the same strange mix of abnormality and normality that reportedly accompanies the most surgical of military takeovers.

Half an hour later, on Red Square itself, the Kremlin clock struck 10, the massed bands played, the cannon boomed in the background and the bells of the Kremlin churches rang out in a cacophony which suggested the discord reputed to exist between

the party and state leadership, on the one hand, and the military on the other — a discord supposedly personified by President Gorbachov, who is also the Communist Party's general-secretary, and the Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov.

In the week before yesterday's parade much was made of military discontent with President Gorbachov's reform programme — from a report that one unit had mounted a show of strength against Mr Gorbachov in February to an apparent media consensus that officers had sat "stony-faced and silent" as the President spoke of top-level dissatisfaction within the military and called for it, too, to be subject to reform.

The first report is still a matter of conjecture and interpretation. The second is not true. President Gorbachov was not heard out in "stony silence" at the Bolshoi Theatre on Tuesday night. He was heard with a good deal of sympathy, especially when he enumerated the military leaders killed or repressed by Stalin and condemned Stalin's

blindness about Hitler's preparations for war.

Applause, at times a little limp, and murmured approval punctuated his address. His speech was well-tailored to his audience and his call for reform of the military — an aim he presented unambiguously in his inaugural address as President — was muted and careful.

Military officers of several generations relaxing in Gorky Park yesterday described the speech as the most sympathetic to the Army Mr Gorbachov has ever made.

It was tempting, but always too simplistic, to see yesterday's parade as a sop granted by the state leadership to the military top brass to keep otherwise unhappy officers happy. It may be more accurate to see it as an attempt by the two sides to present a united face to the Soviet public and the world. It should not be assumed that this unity is for presentational purposes only.

President Gorbachov's lengthy speech on Tuesday evening and Marshal Yazov's short address at the Victory Day parade yesterday showed a reformist leadership and an established Army with a proud tradition doing their best to give the other the benefit of the doubt and reach a public accommodation about their priorities and objectives.

There is indeed dissatisfaction within the military for well-known and predictable reasons, chief among them the cuts in defence allocations, the "retreat" from Eastern Europe and the plight of demobilized officers and service families evacuated from trouble spots in the Soviet Union.

But there is also support for reform from those who acknowledge that the Soviet armed forces have lagged behind the West technologically, and that the lines on which the armed forces are currently organized will have to be changed radically.

For whatever reason, President Gorbachov and the military leadership appear to have decided that they must — and can — work together.



Mrs Prunskiene meeting members of Britain's Lithuanian community outside Downing Street yesterday. She flies to Paris today

UK sympathy for Vilnius

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

WITH Lithuania's supplies of oil due to run out in 20 days, Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, left Downing Street yesterday convinced, she said, that Mrs Thatcher would not remain on the sidelines in the dispute between Moscow and Vilnius.

She said she made no specific requests of Mrs Thatcher, but expressed the hope that the British leader would use her good relations with President Gorbachov to resolve the dispute.

Mrs Thatcher gave no specific undertakings, the Lithuanian leader said, but there were several ways in which she could help in seeking a solution to the crisis and she would choose the method that was best for her.

Whitehall sources said that Mrs Thatcher was more optimistic after the meeting that a way forward could be found. Both prime ministers had agreed, they said, that it was necessary to find a practical solution to the issue of Lithuanian independence while preserving the gains made in East-West relations. This should be resolved through discussions and a solution found which would be satisfactory to both sides.

priority. It would be impossible for Lithuania to rescind its declaration of independence because the Lithuanian deputies had been elected on a mandate to achieve independence.

But what they could do, said Mrs Prunskiene, would be to suspend the laws passed since the declaration which would be in accordance with a formula presented by President Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor. Her conversations with Mrs Thatcher had convinced her that this position was acceptable to the British leader also.

Asked what would happen after May 25, Mrs Prunskiene said she still hoped that the situation could be resolved in discussions with Moscow before that date. She described the actions of Moscow as cynical and said they would have a chain reaction in Latvia and Estonia and would harm the Soviet Union itself.

Russian studies in 'serious' decline

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

TEACHING of Russian and East European studies in British universities is "seriously inadequate" and could lead to domination of the field by the US, France and Germany, according to senior academics.

Their findings were disclosed by Sir Bryan Carledge, the former British Ambassador to Moscow, in a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs. He also attacked Britain's lack of preparedness to meet economic opportunities arising from the opening up of the Soviet Union.

British companies would be "seriously disadvantaged" unless the Government gave higher priority to advising them on trading in the Soviet Union during the difficult transitional period following the collapse of the old order.

Sir Bryan, now Principal of Linacre College, Oxford, said that the Government had

commissioned an assessment of the academic situation after strong criticisms by the Commons foreign affairs committee. He took part in a review of 32 universities, colleges and polytechnics which found that the provision was "seriously inadequate" both for the national need and for student demand, which in some cases had tripled.

The review found that improvements could be made for £9 million spread over 14 years. After an earlier report in 1979, which led to the closure of Russian and Slavonic departments in 10 British universities, the situation "can... be corrected only by positive intervention", he said. "We were and are concerned that if the situation... does not change, and quickly, a whole field of learning and intellectual activity... will be the monopoly of... America, France and Germany."

Not just *the odd* word.

Expert find
adult Aids
epidemic in
Romania

THE
EU
ALL WEEKENDS MAY 11
Europe

Expert finds adult Aids epidemic in Romania

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

DISTURBING new evidence has emerged that Romania is suffering a serious spread of Aids among adults in addition to the paediatric epidemic uncovered after the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, who decreed that all statistics on the disease were "state secrets".

The discovery comes after years in which communist-run Romania lied to world organizations about its alleged non-incidence of Aids, always depicted in the official media as a disease afflicting capitalist societies. Only now is the horrific nature of the cover-up being exposed.

In an interview with *The Times* Dr Jacques Lebas, the leading French Aids expert who helped confirm the original epidemic among Romanian children, disclosed that the first tests just completed among a random sample of 7,000 adults in Romanian hospitals showed that 40-0.6 per cent - were HIV-positive.

Dr Lebas said after a four-day visit: "It has now been discovered that there is an adult Aids epidemic as well. This is very serious news for the country, and will require an urgent strategy to be drawn up by the authorities to counter it."

The doctor, president of the voluntary group, *Médicins du Monde*, and one of the world's leading authorities on the Aids disaster in Africa, said that, most unusually for Europe, there were signs that the Romanian epidemic was predominantly affecting heterosexuals as it had in the worst-hit African nations.

The French team says it is too early to say with certainty the extent of the disease among ordinary Romanians, as more tests are needed. Extrapolation of existing statistics gives 576 adults per 100,000 in the 23 million population as HIV-positive.

"In one infectious diseases hospital I visited, there were 60 children suffering from Aids, and five adults," he said. "All the adults were young

and heterosexual, which is a different pattern than we are used to in Europe."

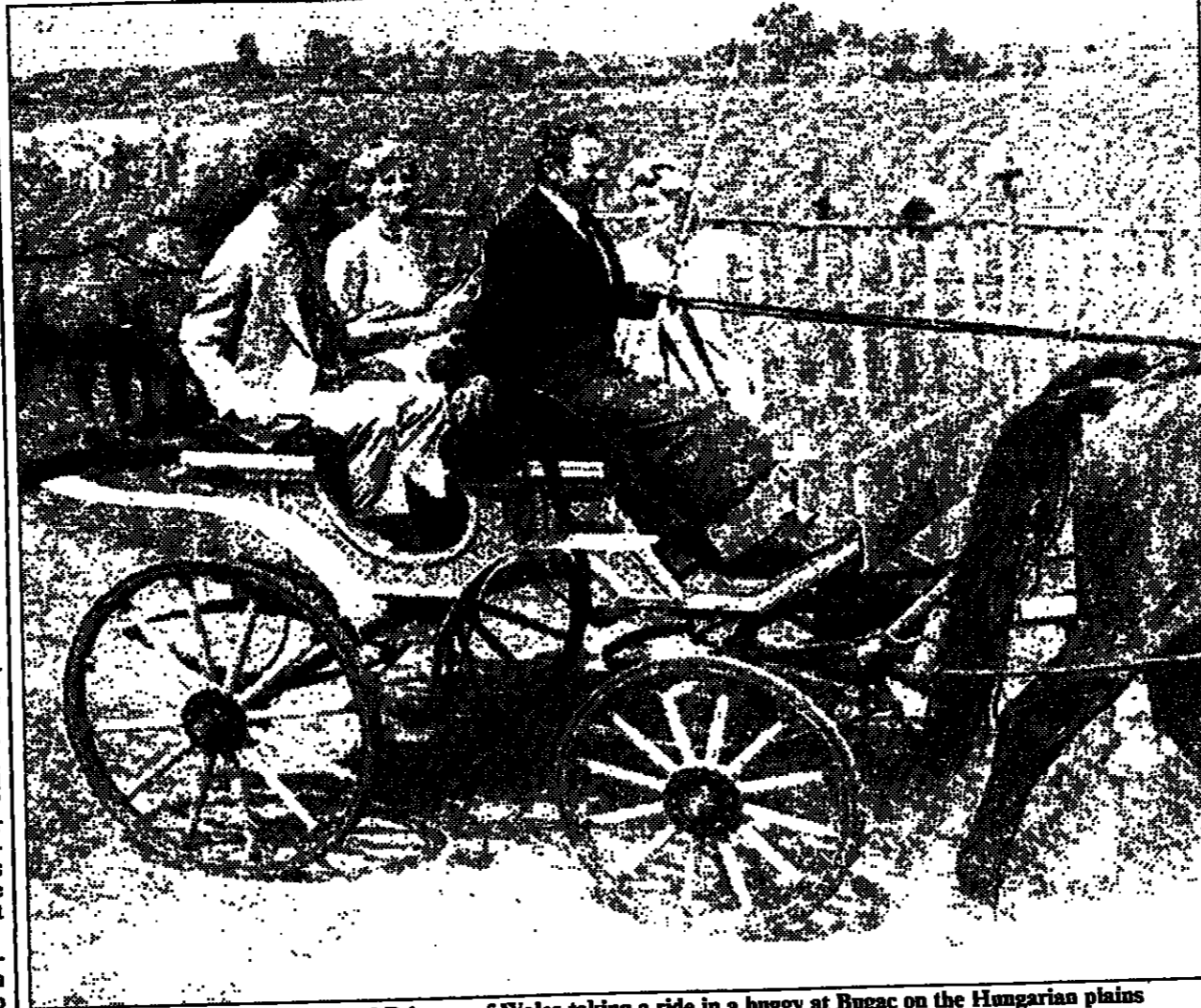
Dr Lebas said that alarming new statistics were now with the two-month-old Romanian National Aids Commission, which was drawing up a campaign to cope with the adult epidemic. Further investigation was required to provide concrete evidence of how it was being spread. He added: "Back in January, when the children's Aids epidemic was found, it was still claimed that the few admitted adult cases were 'imported' from abroad. It is now clear this was not the case. Although the rate of infection is less than the 10 per cent figure among Romanian children, it still counts as an epidemic."

Neither Dr Lebas nor members of the 15-strong French medical team are yet willing to offer firm conclusions about how the virus has been spread here. Dr Lebas said the spread did not fit the European pattern. There was not a high incidence of intravenous drug-taking, one of the main reasons for Aids affecting heterosexuals in the West. "My guess is that it is probably being spread heterosexually as in Africa."

Although medical experts are puzzled by the possibility of a link between the way Aids is spreading in Romania and Africa, the high incidence of malnutrition and poor treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases in both places will be among issues studied.

The Romanian paediatric Aids epidemic is unique because in all but 3 per cent of the children affected the disease was introduced by infected blood or needles used for injections.

Dr Lebas discovered that although conditions had improved greatly in the main Bucharest hospitals coping with child Aids victims, they remained "shocking, inhuman and unhygienic" in many of the more than 200 overcrowded orphanages.



Plain talk: The Prince and Princess of Wales taking a ride in a buggy at Bugac on the Hungarian plains

Big rise in East German jobless

From Ian Murray, Bonn

THE number of unemployed in East Germany rose sharply and the number of vacancies fell last month as the predicted shake-out of unproductive workers gathered pace. Officially, there were no unemployed at all under communist rule six months ago.

Now there are 64,948 registered, an increase of 26,635 on March, and 48,858 are drawing the dole. The number of jobs on offer dropped by over 10,000 to just 73,558.

The figures, announced by the official ADN news agency, show that workers of all categories are losing their jobs, with around 12,000 having qualifications, another 36,000 skilled and only 16,000 unskilled. Around 1,000 have started retraining so far.

The rapid introduction of a free market economy is therefore taking its toll even before the massive investment expected to follow the planned

economic and currency union on July 2. Gloomy predictions already suggest that the phasing out of old production methods and the introduction of new assembly lines by Western companies is likely to cause massive unemployment, which could reach four million before the investment begins to create new jobs.

The economy has been slowing down significantly since the old communist regime was toppled. The motivation to work seems to have dwindled, in part because people worry that currency union will bring soaring inflation in its wake, as subsidies are eliminated without any compensation in pay packets.

Many just do not concentrate on what they are doing, carried away by the excitement and uncertainties of their new democratic freedom. The result is that, in the first quarter, industrial production fell by

4.7 per cent and construction dropped by 14 per cent.

Faced with the prospect of unemployment and falling living standards, East Germans are continuing to leave for the West at the rate of around 4,000 a week. So far this year, even though free elections were promised from the start and have now been held, 178,708 new settlers have registered in West Germany.

They are no longer refugees from a political system but economic migrants, preferring to try for a better life now rather than watch their living standards deteriorate at home while they wait for better conditions to arrive.

After currency union is introduced they will lose all special benefits paid to those arriving in the West, but they will still be able to move if they want to look for work in the booming economy in West Germany. In contrast, the

expectations are that East German industry will have to endure a bleak period with wholesale layoffs in industries which are long overdue for mechanization. There are, for example, 42,000 brewery workers now, but the number is likely to drop by 80 per cent.

Facing up to Western competition will prove difficult, if not impossible, for many industries. Manufacturers of consumer goods such as cars, washing machines, shoes and clothes cannot match the range, quality and price of Western products and are therefore likely to have to close down.

Trabants, the two-stroke, environmentally unfriendly car which East Germans patiently waited up to 10 years to purchase, are finding no buyers.

People with the money are preferring to pick a second-hand Western make.

Gift of Nagy medal for Prince

From Alan Hamilton, Budapest

THREE veterans of the 1956 Hungarian uprising who asked to meet the Prince of Wales yesterday presented him with a bronze medallion commemorating their hero, Imre Nagy, the executed Prime Minister.

Survivors of the revolution, brutally put down by Russian tanks, have formed the Committee for Historical Justice to spread the truth of that year's events, long suppressed under Hungary's former communist regime, and to honour the memory of the 400 who were executed for their part in the abortive bid for freedom. The committee hopes to erect a statue of Nagy in Budapest, and is raising money for a memorial to the others who died.

The Prince met Mrs Judit Maletier, widow of the then Hungarian Defence Minister who negotiated with the Soviet Army to withdraw their tanks from the capital in November, 1956, and who was arrested when he went to the Soviet military headquarters to sign the agreement. He was tried and executed two years later.

Mr Laszlo Regesz, who also met the Prince, was an employee of the British Embassy who smuggled the manuscript of Nagy's book exposing the evils of communist rule out of Hungary for publication in the West. He was tried and spent six years in prison.

"I could not be happier at recent events in Hungary," Mr Regesz said. "We fought for freedom in 1956, and only now have we witnessed the final victory of the revolution, although by other means. The people who claimed to be the vanguard of the working class proved to be a failure; they ran us into the ground. Democracy will succeed in Hungary, but our ruined economy is a different matter; we feel like passengers on a sinking ship."

The Prince said he was honoured to accept the square bronze medal, which has also been presented to President Bush and President Mitterrand on recent visits to Hungary, and to President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

Liberals arrested in Kuwait

KUWAIT THE pro-democracy movement in Kuwait was in disarray yesterday following the arrest of Dr Ahmed al-Khatib and seven other politicians seeking to reconvene the Kuwaiti parliament dissolved four years ago (Juan Carlos Garmucio writes).

Dr al-Khatib was arrested while addressing a meeting which was declared illegal, and the others, for refusing to heed a warning to end it. There is rising tension over a controversial government plan to call elections on June 10 for an interim parliament with limited powers.

Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, wants it to advise on the shape of Kuwait's future democracy. At least 30 former deputies opposed to the Emir's project launched a campaign last year to try to revive the parliament dissolved in 1986. They have announced that they would boycott the June election.

Unesco staff stage protest

PARIS - About 400 staff stopped work for two hours to demonstrate outside a board meeting at Unesco Paris headquarters, saying that the organization had reached a constitutional crisis due to a \$6 million (£3.7 million) overhaul announced by the Director-General, Señor Federico Mayor in February. The 10-day meeting will discuss Señor Mayor's defence of his reform.

Staff criticize Señor Mayor for creating 40 top posts at a time when the agency's budget should be cut. A recent auditor's report said senior officials were overpaid and given illegal perks, while former employees were brought out of retirement to do their old jobs. (Reuters)

French break rail record

PARIS - France's high-speed TGV train broke its own world rail speed record yesterday with a run that topped 320 mph, a spokesman for the SNCF national railway said.

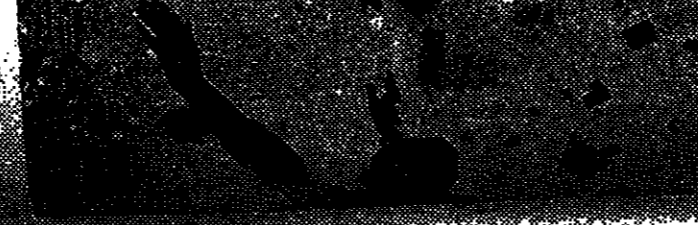
The new record was set on a TGV Atlantique track near Tours in central France by the train that established the previous record of 302 mph on December 5 last year. (Reuters)

THE EUROPEAN

No. 1 WEEKEND MAY 11-13, 1990

Europe's first national newspaper

Europe has begun a new era. In 1990, the economies of the continent are prospering. Despite still too high inflation and still too high unemployment, the general mood is optimistic. The general mood is optimistic. The general mood is optimistic.



US leaders will meet in Washington to discuss the situation in the Balkans. They will discuss the situation in the Balkans. They will discuss the situation in the Balkans.

Arab show of force marks further intifada milestone

From Richard Owen, Ramallah, occupied West Bank

THE cars were still smouldering as we came out of the hotel. Round the corner, police were already interrogating the Arab staff, but no one, it seemed, could identify the attackers.

"They came with axes and petrol bombs, smashed the windows of the cars and set them alight," one witness said. "It all happened in a flash."

Description? "They all wore masks — the keffiyeh (head-dress), wrapped around their faces."

The intifada yesterday entered its 30th month, marked by a general strike in the occupied territories called jointly by the underground leadership of the Palestinian revolution and Hamas, the banned Muslim fundamentalist organization.

For much of the outside world the uprising has slipped from view two and half years on. Many wrongly assume it has either died out or been reduced to the kind of sporadic disturbances which characterized Palestinian unrest in the 20 years from 1967 to 1987. In reality, the intifada has taken hold to the point it is routine, part of the everyday fabric for Palestinians, Israelis and foreign residents alike. To

some extent, Israeli forces have succeeded in containing the revolt and reducing casualties.

The underground leadership of the intifada, moreover, appears divided. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the more radical factions, has begun issuing its own instructions in separate leaflets — a serious breach of the principle of "unified leadership".

The Palestinian population itself seems divided on how to proceed, and the response to some recent strike calls has been patchy. In addition, there is widespread unease over the vicious killing by Palestinian extremists of alleged Arab "collaborators" with the Israelis. In one recent case a 40-year old Arab in Gaza, whose only apparent crime was to work for the Israeli bus company, was knifed to death after refusing to "confess" publicly at the local mosque.

These gruesome murders have cost the Palestinians much of the moral support they enjoyed from the West at the start of the revolt. Intifada leaders are aware that the uprising no longer dominates Western television screens. In part, this is the Palestinians'

own fault: in some cases Western newsmen have themselves become the victims of Arab violence, as Palestinians turn in frustration on the media they once saw as their main hope. Some foreign and Israeli television crews are refusing to venture into the West Bank any longer.

But the inner momentum of the uprising has not faltered. Every week cars are set on fire in Jerusalem, the targets usually being Israeli-owned rental vehicles. A sustained police campaign has failed to stop the arson attacks. Ramallah, where Israelis from West Jerusalem used to visit to patronize Arab restaurants on summer evenings, is now as firmly off limits to Israelis as the state of Palestine had already been declared.

A similar invisible line divides Jerusalem. Every day the intifada inches closer to the daily lives of Israelis. In Jerusalem this week two young Arabs from Hebron on the West Bank were arrested for seizing a soldier's rifle at a bus-stop in the Jewish suburb of Gilo. Anyone driving to the West Bank is advised to have reinforced plastic windows installed. There is a long waiting list at my garage for such protective shields.

With the political right in Israel on the rise, some Israelis — notably the powerful Orthodox religious parties — are demanding "tough action" by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, to suppress the intifada. Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, is a vocal proponent of such a crackdown. Backed by senior figures in the Shamir Government, militant Jewish settlers have grown increasingly confident, taking over a series of properties in the predominantly Arab old city of Jerusalem.

Labour coalition accord

JERUSALEM In the face of opposition from "doves" on the party's left wing, the Israeli Labour Party leadership yesterday decided in favour of joining a new national unity coalition with the right-wing Likud party, provided Likud agreed to "take the peace process forward". (Richard Owen writes).

By Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Defence Minister. But there was no sign that Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, and transitional Prime Minister, intends to invite Labour to form a broad coalition of the kind which collapsed in March after 15 months because of disagreements over the Middle East peace formula put forward by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

Lebanese cleric rules out a swap for Sheikh Obeid

From Juan Carlos Gumucio, Jibchit, southern Lebanon

UMM Mujahed Obeid apologizes profusely. Her two youngest children are playing noisily in the living room of the house. There is no coffee. And she does not wish to talk about hostages. Not even when her husband, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Shia Muslim cleric kidnapped by Israeli soldiers nearly 10 months ago, is one of them.

"Sorry," she says, as she reaches for Mushaba, her three-year-old son who has climbed onto a coffee table below the portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini, the main feature of the room. Does little Mushaba or his four brothers and sisters know that their father was seized at gunpoint and is being held against his will? "Sorry, I do not want to say anything. It is better like this." There is a pause. "I just hope all of the hostages, all of them, will go free one day."

It takes a brief walk across the village to the house of Sheikh Obeid's successor to realize how weak Umm

Obeid's hopes really are. Sheikh Ahmed Ali Taleb is the temporary imam of Jibchit and lives in a house with a panoramic view of the village, the minaret of its new, white mosque towering above olive groves and rooftops. He is an urbane young man with a mind.

For him, the Israeli proposal to free Sheikh Obeid in exchange for Israeli prisoners in Lebanon is an unacceptable proposition. Sheikh Obeid was kidnapped, he says. The soldiers that Israel wants back were captured in combat. And a swap could prove extremely counter-productive: exchanging Israeli prisoners of war for Sheikh Obeid, he says, would create a dangerous precedent.

"If the Israeli prisoners of war are exchanged for Sheikh Abdel Karim, what would stop Israel from kidnapping other Lebanese men of religion the next time our fighters capture soldiers attacking our people in our land?" he asks.

But for this 26-year-old cleric, who spent 10 years at the theological school in Qom, Iran, the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid went beyond the mere crime of abduction. "He is a man of religion, he taught Islam," he says. "He was at his home, with his family. He had no guns."

When he is reminded that nor did the British, Americans, French, West Germans and others who were abducted by Shia Muslim extremists in Beirut since 1985, he smiles. He obviously sees a difference. "I wish you foreigners

could understand the nature of our struggle," he says. "Israel, the West, have political power, aircraft and guns to enslave us... they, whoever began kidnapping foreigners, had none."

"Kidnapping became their only weapon."

And the Israelis, too, used it. Early on Friday, July 28, 1989, an airborne unit of Israeli commandos landed in Jibchit and seized Sheikh Obeid and two of his aides, a cousin, Ahmad Obeid, and Majid Fahs. A neighbour who came out to find out what was happening was shot dead.

Sheikh Taleb brushes aside the Western allegations that Sheikh Obeid was the mastermind in the abduction of US Marine Colonel William Higgins in February 1988. "He is a man of religion," he insists. "We demand his immediate and unconditional release. No deals, no exchange. We want Sheikh Abdel Karim first."

● JERUSALEM: Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, the chief of the Israeli armed forces, apparently hardening the official position, said yesterday that the three Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon must be returned before Israel would swap its Arab prisoners for Western hostages.

"I imagine we will be happy to swap and all those being held will be freed, including Americans and Israelis, and we will free those we hold," General Shomron said in an Israeli Radio broadcast. "But clearly first of all we will want to see our captives here at home," he said. (Reuters)



The Pope waving to thousands of young Mexicans before celebrating Mass at San Juan de los Lagos, where he urged the crowd to oppose political corruption and drug trafficking. In a speech in Mexico City to diplomats, he called for international solidarity to ease Latin America's debt burden and help refugees rebuild their lives

Students in clashes with Seoul riot police

Seoul

TENS of thousands of South Korean students took to the streets in protest against the country's new ruling party yesterday, leading to the most widespread fighting with riot police in more than a year.

Up to 5,000 radicals battled police outside the US cultural centre in central Seoul, smashing windows in the building and setting one room alight with petrol bombs. Firemen said that the four-storey centre was unoccupied at the time.

More than 10,000 young radicals earlier blocked a main road in the capital, chanting slogans demanding the overthrow of President Roh Tae Woo and dissolution of his new Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). "We have skyrocketing inflation, skyrocketing real estate prices — Roh Tae Woo, get out," read a banner hung across the front of the Bank of Korea, the country's central bank.

Mr Roh was unanimously declared leader of the ruling DLP at the party's first national convention yesterday. The party was formed in February after he and leaders of two out of three opposition parties agreed to merge into one grand coalition.

Riot police had blanketed the city for most of the day to try to prevent student protests, but they seemed unprepared for the scale of the demonstration. One witness said at least two riot police buses were burned and almost 50 policemen overpowered by students, who took away their tear-gas masks and shields.

"We'll put an end to the DLP — which can't even get 10 per cent of the people's support — through the people's strength," read a leaflet handed out by students.

Outside the US cultural centre, students used petrol bombs and rocks in their battle with riot police. Witnesses said metal shutters on front windows of the building were forced open and window panes smashed. A US embassy spokesman said it was too early to gauge the amount of damage at the centre.

The students also chanted slogans against government intervention in labour disputes. (Reuters)

'Uncle' in the Elysée losing his magic touch

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

AS A great political survivor, President Mitterrand may not be too troubled by the dismal opinion poll ratings that mark the beginning of his tenth year in office this week. His personal popularity has certainly dropped, but with France's next presidential election not due until 1995, Mitterrand will count on bouncing back for the umpteenth time.

In sharp contrast, the ruling Socialist Party is in obvious trouble, awaiting with some nervousness the outcome of the no-confidence motion expected in the National Assembly tomorrow. While most observers here expect Communist votes to keep Mitterrand's minority Government in power, as they have on three previous occasions, it seems disenchanted with Mitterrand is spilling over into growing hostility to the Government.

According to recent polls, a general election now would see the Socialists swept away after just two years in office. Given the pathetic state of the mainstream conservative opposition — consumed by internal feuds and menaced by the revival of the extreme-right National Front — it could be a long, hard slog to hold out until going to the country in 1992.

Talk to prominent Socialists and the "Elysée factor" soon crops up: for the first time in years, President Mitterrand is seen as a potential political handicap. One faction worries that the French have come to see the familiarity and reassuring man they once called *Tonton* (uncle) as a profoundly Machiavellian figure, reaching out

from the Elysée to leave his mark on every aspect of government.

The present parliamentary censure motion is a case in point. It arises from a long and squalid controversy about granting amnesty to MPs charged with electoral corruption that culminated in the case against a former Socialist minister being dropped. Nobody could be more cynical about politicians than the French, yet this murky and damaging affair is being laid quite specifically at the President's door.

It is a telling reflection of Mitterrand's present standing that another view holds him to be altogether too remote and detached from the main issues of the day. He is blamed for forgetting campaign promises about tackling racism in French society, about a fresh policy to solve unemployment, and what happened to all that talk about social justice and an egalitarian society? The praise from abroad now being lavished on France's flourishing economy cuts no ice with many of those who voted Socialist last time round. The franc may be riding high, the Bourse booming, investment and productivity rising — but why the repeated Government calls for wage restraint among the lower paid?

The image of Mitterrand rubbing shoulders with world leaders is also losing some of its magic for the French. Going for Mrs Thatcher over European Community integration is still popular enough, but it requires no great genius to understand that the Germans are now firmly in the

driving seat. Some French observers believe that President Mitterrand's efforts to walk the world stage are becoming counter-productive back home.

In the circumstances, the publication of an acclaimed new biography, *Le Président*, by M Franz-Olivier Giesbert, editor of the conservative *Le Figaro*, was surely the last thing Mitterrand wanted for his tenth anniversary. By no means a complete hatchet job, it recognizes his extraordinary durability and shrewdness and the central contribution he has made to shaping the France of today. On the other hand, it provides a cutting portrayal of an instinctive political manipulator "who does not allow himself to be burdened by scruples when power is at stake".

Small wonder, then, that Mitterrand is now emerging from the opinion polls in rather better shape than the man who appointed him two years ago. The word at the time in the Mitterrand circle was that Mitterrand would not last the course. But today, his low-key image of work and more hard work, apparently untainted by socialist political intrigues, strikes a more receptive note with the country at large.

Is the great man in the Elysée aware of the ground shifting beneath him, of the need to persuade his countrymen that he is still *Tonton* at heart? In an uncharacteristically defensive performance on television recently, Mitterrand observed that righting social inequality would be the main theme of his remaining years in office.

Albania introduces reform package

VIENNA ALBANIA has lifted a ban on religious propaganda and abolished the death penalty for defectors in a package of human rights reforms to Europe's last orthodox communist system.

In a series of legal changes that further opened the once-reclusive Balkan state to the outside world, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Manush Myftiu, also announced plans to give all Albanians the right

to apply for a passport to travel abroad. "It is our constant duty to enhance the care of human rights," he told a session of parliament in Tirana in detailing the reforms on Tuesday. His speech was published yesterday by the official ATA news agency, which said the changes had been approved.

The reforms, the most far-reaching in the human rights field since the communist state was founded in 1946,

were published two days before the United Nations Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, visits Tirana. But they were cautious compared to the other radical changes in Eastern Europe.

They were announced at the same parliamentary session at which the Prime Minister, Mr Adil Carcani, declared Albania's readiness to join the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. (Reuters)

Cheney defends nuclear strike option

From Martin Fletcher, Kananaskis, Canada

AS NATO defence ministers yesterday began a two-day meeting on the Western alliance's post-Cold War nuclear posture, Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, set the scene for a heated debate by insisting the 25-year-old "flexible response" strategy for protecting Western Europe must remain unchanged.

He said that, despite the Warsaw Pact's collapse, NATO had to maintain both the right and capacity to launch a nuclear first strike in response to a conventional Soviet attack and had to deploy new Tactical Air-to-Surface Missiles (TASMs) in West Germany and elsewhere.

Although President Bush announced last week that the US would not modernize its short-range, ground-based nuclear weaponry in West Germany, that had "no effect" on Washington's plans to deploy TASMs, he said.

Mr Cheney's statements, which British officials supported, ran counter to the strongly-held view of West Germany and the smaller NATO countries, including Belgium and The Netherlands, which are opposed to the deployment of TASMs on their soil and believe that the Warsaw Pact collapse warrants a thorough re-evaluation of the alliance's nuclear strategy.

West German officials believe that the deployment of TASMs — capable of striking the Soviet Union — would send quite the wrong signal to Moscow which is presently fighting a strong rearguard action against the idea of a united Germany in NATO.

The Americans plan to try to avoid debate on TASMs at this meeting, in a snow-covered Rocky Mountains resort, of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group. But with the meeting opening with an unusual "open discussion" of the Western alliance's policy in the light of recent events in Eastern Europe, that appeared a forlorn hope.

Although Mr Bush said last week that the NATO summit in July should instigate the broad review of alliance strategy, Mr Cheney made it clear that this should concentrate not on the basic doctrine of flexible response but on the level of forces. Like the President, he emphasized that there had to be a continuing nuclear component in the alliance strategy.

He told reporters that "at this point I don't see any need to change the basic fundamental strategy" of the alliance, which involved the deployment of US troops in Europe, a single military command structure, and the potential first use of tactical nuclear weapons, backed up by strategic nuclear weapons, if the Soviet Union invaded Western Europe. Mr Cheney said he was "not eager" to remove the flexible-response strategy even after the expected completion of a treaty this autumn which would end Moscow's huge superiority in conventional forces.

● Troop pullout: The Soviet Union believes that all foreign troops stationed in Europe should be withdrawn by 1995-96 as part of a new security framework for the region, Mr Oleg Grinevsky, the Soviet Ambassador to the conventional arms talks in Vienna, said yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

He described as a key step the agreement, announced in Ottawa in February, to restrict US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000.

But he insisted that the developments in Europe required deeper cuts in troops and armaments. The Soviet arms negotiator was giving the inaugural Mountbatten Lecture at Southampton University.

Blockade imposed by Aoun

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

AFTER three consecutive days of savage shelling, Lebanon's inter-Christian war spilled violently onto the Mediterranean coast yesterday when General Michel Aoun imposed a sea blockade to prevent the Phalangist Lebanese Forces militia from receiving ammunition and supplies.

As General Aoun's artillery concentrated fire on the coast of Beirut and the Jounieh area, Mr Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces commander, instantly retaliated with rocket attacks on units and residential districts under control of the Army.

Thousands of civilians who are still living within the devastated Christian enclave were trapped in underground shelters as shells and rockets rained down on the ruins of their homes.

Nearly 40 people have been killed and at least 80 have been wounded since the artillery battles intensified on Monday in what seemed to be the prelude to a decisive confrontation in the three-month war.

Conservative estimates say that nearly 1,000 people have died since General Aoun declared war on his one-time allies in an attempt to become the undisputed leader of the Christian community.



Captains Bob Wyatt, left, and Martin Smith, waiting to take RMS St Helena on her last voyage to the isolated community in the South Atlantic

RMS St Helena sets sail today from Avonmouth on what is likely to be its last voyage to the remote Crown colony whose name it carries. It is to be replaced on its regular run by a new ship, twice the size, being built in Aberdeen.

Captains Martin Smith and Bob Wyatt take it in turns to command the eight-week round trip, which includes Cape Town on the way back. After many years of sailing the West African coast, they both vividly remember their first sight of the island's sheer cliffs, 12 years ago.

"I know how Napoleon must have felt when he saw the island for the first time in 1815," says Captain Smith. "From a distance, it stood like an impenetrable fortress," recalls Captain Wyatt. "As we got closer, it was the layered rock, the vivid changes in colour which we noticed. Then, as we drew yet nearer, we caught a whiff of the smoke

from the islanders' wood fires."

The smell of woodsmoke may not be as strong as it was — many islanders now have electricity, and Calor Gas cookers. But their welcome for the 27-year-old RMS St Helena seems as enthusiastic as that accorded to the regular steamship sailings when they began in the middle of the last century.

St Helena, one of only 13 remaining Crown colonies, is 4,500 miles from the UK and 1,694 miles from Cape Town, well away from any shipping lanes. The nearest airstrip is 703 miles away on Ascension, and the island is remote enough to have its own unique bird species, the wirebird. So the St Helena represents the island's only regular contact with the outside world.

"There's always somebody looking out to sea, to catch the first glimpse of the ship," says Captain Wyatt. In the island's

"capital" and seat of government, Jamestown, the atmosphere is totally transformed on "ship day".

Most of St Helena's 6,000 population flock in from all parts of the 10 x 6 mile island, on foot, by motorcycle or in one of the 1,800 registered cars or lorries. There is fierce competition for the town's 200 parking places.

However late the ship arrives, the post office will stay open into the night to hand out mail, on average 130 bags per voyage, some bringing money from relatives working overseas — two of the largest communities are in Southampton and Portsmouth. The stores, which range from pianos and cars to baked beans and cream crackers, are snapped up from the town's shops in a day or two. The ship also carries livestock, banknotes, and when necessary, a travelling judge.

The passenger list is pub-

lished in advance in the *St Helena News Review*, the island's newspaper. Anyone interesting will be asked to talk on the local radio station, which has featured two British ambassadors to South Africa, who were returning to Britain by sea on their retirement, and in 1980, Prince and Princess Bonaparte on a souvenir Napoleonic cruise, with 70 French passengers.

Some passengers have liked the island so much they have stayed. Captain Wyatt says: "There is the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank manager, who went ashore, came back to the UK to settle his affairs, and returned to retire." Captain Smith adds: "There is a sense of total peace. You don't hear or see anything, apart from the occasional aircraft's slipstream, miles overhead, or a rare ship passing, far away on the horizon." But on "ship day" the atmosphere is rather more frantic.

push poised
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the shadow of

THE SHADOW
OF DIABETES
BRITISH DIABETIC

Bush poised to backtrack on campaign tax pledge

From Susan Elliott, Washington

AMERICANS are frantically trying to reread their President's lips. Until last week, he was the leader who promised: "Read my lips! No new taxes." Now, the pledge which helped carry him to the White House looks shaky following his decision to try to sort out his country's budget woes.

This, Washington concluded, signalled that taxes would be on the table. In an attempt to calm the ensuing panic, Bush Administration officials have said that taxes are not necessarily on the agenda. They are simply not off it. The White House has refused to say whether the President is ready to talk about raising taxes.

Mr Bush's decision to tackle the nation's deficit marks a reversal of his position three months ago when he told Congress he was not contemplating bipartisan negotiations to reach a deal. Since then, economic conditions have forced him to reconsider.

Government revenues have fallen while rising interest rates have boosted spending. Administration officials say that Mr Bush, spurred by

growing concern in Congress about the expanding deficit, simply decided the time was right for action, even at the risk of appearing to backtrack on his no-new-taxes pledge.

The Administration has been under pressure to address the budget problem for some time. Mr Bush's main aim will be to draw up a package of spending cuts and revenue rises that will prevent the automatic imposition of across-the-board spending cuts this autumn under the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

Mr Bush would like to avoid Gramm-Rudman's axe. The law, which sets \$64 billion (\$39 billion) as the limit for the federal deficit next year, would trim about 20 per cent off spending for defence and other domestic programmes without consideration for the priority of projects.

Traditionally, Republicans have linked themselves with lower taxes, while the Democrats have admitted, usually to their peril, a willingness to raise revenues through taxation.

Already, the Bush Administration is rushing to placate the nervous Republicans, while the Democrats are seeking to avoid the blame for forcing the White House to consider new taxes. The Bush Administration has repeatedly accused the Democratic-led Congress of contributing to the budget shortfall by irresponsibly overspending the President's approved budget.

The latest readout on Mr Bush's lips is that "no new taxes" really means "no new income taxes". Political experts point out that the Bush Administration has already raised or introduced some taxes but disguised them as "user fees", such as increases last autumn in taxes on airline tickets and social security payments.

The most likely new tax would be on petrol. A 25-cent increase on a gallon of petrol would bring in an estimated further \$25 billion a year, or around half the amount estimated necessary to avoid the Gramm-Rudman cuts. For Mr Bush, who took office proclaiming himself the "environmental President", an energy tax would also have the advantage of appealing to America's flourishing green movement.

It may, however, encounter opposition in Congress from members of large Western states which have little public transport.

Californians, for example, are bound to complain that an energy tax unfairly targets them over the residents of cities on the East Coast who do not need to drive long distances.

Canadians drug unruly deportees

From John Best, Ottawa

A POLITICAL storm has blown up in Canada over disclosures that unco-operative deportees have been sedated by government medical personnel to get them to leave the country quietly.

Opposition MPs have denounced the practice, calling it inhumane and a violation of the national charter of rights and freedoms. Mr Dan Heap, the New Democratic Party's human rights spokesman, said that "not even convicted criminals" were subjected to such treatment. However, under sustained opposition questioning in the Commons on Tuesday, Mrs Barbara McDougall, the Immigration Minister, refused to give an undertaking that the practice will be halted.

She said that some immigration enforcement officers have been injured while escorting reluctant deportees. Mrs McDougall also argued that the Government has a responsibility to protect the other passengers on an aircraft carrying a deportee.

She said that of 3,125 illegal immigrants deported since January 1, 1989, only nine were given drugs - for medical reasons or to calm the potentially dangerous.

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Journey's end: The crew of a Hong Kong police patrol boat lining up on deck to survey a boatload of Vietnamese they had just intercepted. The boat people had travelled overland through China before making the hazardous sea journey. This week a plane carrying 125 boat people left Hong Kong for Hanoi, bringing to more than 2,000 the number who have returned home voluntarily under a UN-sponsored programme.

Hong Kong promises inquiry into camp claim

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government has promised an investigation into complaints of heavy-handed police action against women and children during a weapons search at Hong Kong's largest Vietnamese camp last week.

The move follows an outspoken attack by Mr Philip Barker, the Hong Kong field director of Save the Children Fund, who said the brutality of the pre-dawn operation at the 22,000-inmate Whitehead detention centre left many people "shocked and terrified". Vietnamese in the camps, he said, reported that tear gas was sprayed directly into the dormitories, forcing inmates to leave. "Some mothers who could not get ready quickly enough claim they were pushed and hit by the police with batons."

The Government Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Mike Hanson, said all the allegations would be passed to the Complaints Against Police Office for investigation. However, he defended the raid against accusations of brutality and said the police had acted with restraint.

"The purpose of the operation was to find and remove weapons from the camp. They found and removed over 2,500 very dangerous weapons," he said. Any complaints of aggressive police searching of women and children would also be investigated, but he claimed that the search itself was justified. "In the past women and children have had weapons," he said.

Chinese threat to curb Muslims

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

THE governor of the north-west Chinese region of Xinjiang has threatened to crack down on religious activities in the predominantly Muslim area, which was shaken by what Peking officials called an "armed counter-revolutionary rebellion" last month.

"We should intensify supervision of religious activities and the venues for such activities," said Mr. Tomur Dawamat, the governor of the autonomous region, speaking at the "quelling of the counter-revolutionary armed rebellion" at a meeting of the regional congress, which was shown on television.

Attempts to curb religious activities are likely to aggravate further Muslim anger against the Chinese, and to lead to even louder calls for a separate Islamic state. According to Peking, the governor rebelled last month intended to wage a holy war to set up a republic of East Turkistan.

The Chinese authorities are extremely concerned at the fact that many of the in-

stigators of the unrest have escaped the police net and are still at large. "They're terrified," said a diplomat of the authorities.

Officials have played down the extent of the unrest in Xinjiang, knowing that few foreigners were there to see it and eager to present to the world a facade of stability and unity. However, a Western diplomat familiar with the region said: "The scale of propaganda just doesn't tally with a small incident."

He doubted that officials recruited from among the Muslim minorities would turn against the Han Chinese, since "their tradition is rather dependent on the Chinese staying there". But officials apart, "there looks as though there was widespread popular support... the intensity with which the authorities are pursuing religion gives the game away."

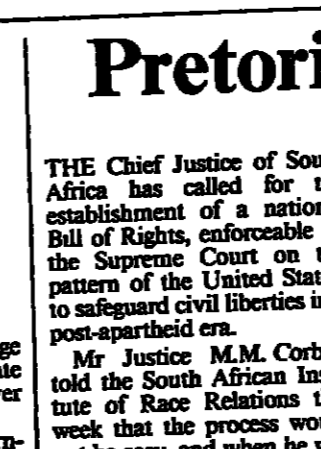
Official accounts give a death toll of 22, but there have been unofficial reports of nearer 50 dead. In the

Xinjiang daily newspaper, gory accounts have been given of the uprising in Akto county, emphasizing the ruthlessness of the Muslims.

By all accounts, the Muslims were armed with axes, guns, and grenades, and it was necessary to airlift in Chinese troops.

Diplomats believe that the arms came from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and that the Chinese are involved in a diplomatic offensive to halt the flow of such weapons.

But the Chinese are not using diplomatic means alone. The Khunjerab pass between Pakistan and China was closed because of snow and was not opened at the start of May, as originally planned.



Sarawak tribes battle against jungle loggers

From Mary Kay Magistad, Mulu, Sarawak

THE young Penan tribesman drew a poison dart from the case slung over his shoulder and loaded it into his blowpipe. He took aim at a small bird flitting through the jungle canopy, and blew. The bird fell silently.

"It's not so easy living off the forest now," said Moss, aged 25, as he pulled out another dart. "We used to be able to find wild boar and other animals in just a few minutes. Now we can hunt for days and find nothing. We have to walk much further for the fruit trees and plants for medicine we have always used. The logging is destroying them. That's why we are trying to stop the logging."

The Malaysian side of Borneo island, one of the world's oldest and most diverse tropical rainforests, is steadily losing the battle to a lust for quick profits. Logging companies have accelerated their pace, keeping a 24-hour vigil in some camps to speed the transformation of quality tropical timber into money in the bank.

Left in the lurch are more than half a million native tribespeople, who have lived as part of the rainforest ecosystem for thousands of years. Perhaps more than any of the other 20 or so tribes in Sarawak, the Penan are especially feeling the pinch. While the other tribes were traditionally farmers as well as head-hunters, the Penan avoided both practices and lived as jungle nomads. The State of Sarawak recognizes tribal customary rights only of cleared and cultivated land, however - leaving the Penan with nothing, officially, to call their own.

"Their knowledge and unity with the forest is something that's not really matched anywhere in the world," said Mr Grant Rosoman, a New Zealand environmental activist who recently spent weeks visiting remote Penan longhouses. "But now their ecosystem is changing irrevocably - and it's destroying their way of life."

Logging in Sarawak is big business - and big money. Malaysia's timber exports - worth more than \$1.5 billion (£898 million) annually - account for more than half of the world's export market. And while the Malaysian Government siphons off

royalties from Sarawak's huge oil industry, the Sarawak state Government keeps whatever logging revenues it earns.

Some of Sarawak's government officials profit much more directly. Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib's family owns almost four million acres of logging concessions - about one-third of Sarawak's total. Mr James Wong, the Environment Minister, owns rights to log another huge swathe of virgin rainforest.

The political pork-barrel and staggering profits from logging in Sarawak have created an instant class of millionaires - politicians, environmental activists have charged. They say it's no coincidence that Sarawak's only car factory manufactures BMWs.

But Sarawak's political elite insist that the trickle-down effect works - even if the people don't realize it yet. Chief Minister Taib has claimed that logging has helped to "civilize" the natives, and put money in their pockets.

But much of that money is simply a short-term pay-off for long-term or even permanent damage to the tribes' habitat. And "compensation" varies wildly, depending on a tribal headman's ability to bargain - and hold the loggers to their promise.

"We were told we would get hundreds of thousands of dollars from the loggers," said one tribesman from a longhouse on the Tutoh River. "But we've received almost nothing. They take our land, they log our forests - and life just gets harder."

The Penan, joined by a handful of other tribes, have refused to go down without a fight. Over the past three years, they've put up a series of blockades to stop the loggers from going any deeper into virgin rainforest. Elderly headmen in loin-cloths and bangles, tribal women with four-inch diameter logs hanging in their unbelievably stretched earlobes, and naked toddlers lined up in front of the bulldozers and demanded a stop to the logging. Dozens of the men were promptly thrown in jail for illegally blocking "state" land. Meanwhile, logging has gone full-speed ahead on the contested territory.

Colombian cocaine ring broken in New York

New York - A Colombian cocaine trafficking organization in the New York area, dealing in drugs worth \$20 million (£12 million) per month, has been broken up with the arrest of 17 people and the seizure of a well-fortified Long Island farm. An official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service was also arrested and charged with taking more than \$100,000 in bribes to provide drug smugglers with identification as permanent US residents, officials said. (AP)

Activists held

Harare - Six activists of the opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement have been detained in the Midlands town of Gweru under emergency powers regulations. (AFP)

Stasi suicide

East Berlin - General Peter Koch, aged 60, the secret police chief ordered in December by Herr Hans Modrow to break up the Stasi, has committed suicide. (AFP)

Paid back

Warsaw - A provincial court has awarded 37 million zlotys (£2,380) in compensation to Mr Franciszek Slowik, imprisoned for more than six years on a false conviction during the Stalinist prosecutions of the 1950s. (AP)

Ankara attack

Ankara - The response of Turkey to Amnesty International allegations of continuing human rights abuses is that "the report seems to be a photostat copy of the previous one". (Reuters)

'Rebel shot'

Monrovia - President Doe of Liberia said he believed that the leader of the current rebellion, Mr Charles Taylor, had been shot in an internal feud and was being treated in hospital in the neighbouring Ivory Coast. (Reuters)

Destroyer docks

Norfolk, Virginia - The guided-missile destroyer USS Conyngham, damaged by a fire which killed a sailor and injured 12 others, docked yesterday at the Norfolk naval station. (AP)

Pretoria rights Bill urged

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE Chief Justice of South Africa has called for the establishment of a national Bill of Rights, enforceable by the Supreme Court on the pattern of the United States, to safeguard civil liberties in a post-apartheid era.

Mr Justice M.M. Corbett told the South African Institute of Race Relations this week that the process would not be easy, and when he was at the Bar he had found a good compromise was one that never wholly satisfied either party. "I imagine that much the same principle must apply to constitutional negotiations." An essential ingredient was a Bill of Rights, but by itself it could be no more than a Utopian statement. It required enforcement machinery, which should be invested in the Supreme Court.

During a visit to the US in 1976, he had been deeply impressed by the power of its judiciary, headed by a confident and secure Supreme Court in the fullest sense of the term. "It struck me with all the force, suddenness and clarity of a spiritual revelation that... the answer was possibly to be found in the American example."

The American system was one of several models considered by the South African Law Commission, which published a draft Bill of Rights last year. It is now evaluating submissions from the public, with a view to compiling a final

report. Mr Justice Corbett regards it as an outstanding piece of work, and welcomes subsequent suggestions that the final version be part of a constitutional settlement.

"This will give the Bill a binding force that could never have been achieved by simply parliamentary legislation."

However, it was of paramount importance that the judiciary should be the supreme arbiter and executor of civil liberties. "Justiciability in a court of law by way of judicial review there obviously must be. There are evidently in various countries Bills of Rights which are not justiciable in this way, but they must be hollow, worthless things."



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The poll tax: let the people choose

My hope and belief is that the Conservatives will win the next general election. Central to achieving this are a significant reduction in the inflation rate and the restoration of rising real living standards. Falling interest rates could fuel this virtuous circle next year, reinforced, I hope, by Britain's entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism. The political divide will then narrow, and despite the local election results, I foresee no recovery worth the name for the centre parties.

Secondary issues may, however, remain of more than usual significance, and the community charge will retain a powerful national importance.

In many of the marginal constituencies by which the tenure of power is determined, the community charge is perceived to have broken the Disraelian compact upon which Tory power rests. Principally in the North-west, Yorkshire and the West Midlands, but stretching ominously into parts of southern England, is a belief that it is either too high, unfair, or both, and it has created a lingering sense of injustice. I have never known so large a community of people with a life-long commitment to the Tory cause, who, having bought their homes, saved to ensure their independence and budgeted carefully for their old age, feel badly let down.

To these must be added recent recruits: council-house buyers and the couples in terraced houses who last year paid £250 in rates and this year face bills of more than £700. They have no doubt about whose fault that is. They are not political philosophers, just people on tight budgets. They have to be won back to their natural political home. There is no time to be lost. There will be no second chance.

It is little wonder that local government remains at the centre of political debate. It spends £36 billion a year, administers essential services and presents to our citizens the largest single bill that many of them ever see. But it is neither that local nor that simple. Central government pays most of the costs and has the overriding mandate to prescribe the quality of public services.

We want local choice, but only to an extent that is compatible with the responsibility of ministers for national standards. We want strengthened local accountability, a healthy local democracy and a system of finance which is perceived to be fair.

It is in unitary local authorities that the accountability emerges most clearly. I doubt if the stunning local election results in Wandsworth and Westminster would have been so conclusive had the community charges there been confused by precepts from the GLC or ILEA. People need to know who is responsible. So I am increasingly persuaded that we should restore the identity of the old single-tier county borough for our major urban areas, to provide a more effective framework of local pride and local accountability. I favour paid, directly-elected mayors in command, in order to bring local spending under con-

trol, together with tougher value-for-money audits. I am sceptical about the practice of central government distributing more than £20 billion by formula, with few questions asked.

In the short term, the pressure is on to contain or reduce the present levels of community charge and to make it fairer. These are the two real grievances. But the stark facts are that inflation is approaching 10 per cent and that wage claims are damagingly close to double-figure disaster. This alone will add a good £70 to the £700 charge on the terraced-house couple.

And this assumes that local authorities raise no more than what is required to cover wage increases — which bitter experience tells us is a forlorn hope. They will pray in aid the cost of introducing care in the community, plus the phasing-out of the safety net and transitional relief.

I see no purpose now in rehearsing the old arguments about the wisdom of introducing the charge, for one overwhelming practical reason. There is no realistic prospect that the Government will do other than fight the next election with a community charge in place. But most people in my party now agree that it needs considerable modifications. So let us focus on some possible key changes.

The critical judgement is how much more the Treasury can or should pay. To this must be added the question, are there any other ways of raising money to defray in part the demands on the Treasury? Only the Department of the Environment can calculate the implications of any proposal. But outsiders can influence the priorities.

In the first place the concept that most people should pay something directly for their local services makes sense. Secondly, we have to avoid next year's sudden change in bills arising from the Government's own decision.

Then we should look at conspicuous examples of grievance and remove them wherever possible, but in approaching this we must remember the harsh truth that it costs £1 billion to reduce the average charge by only £28.

There are many variants on the theme that the Treasury must pay. The crudest suggestion of all is that the Government should increase the central grant by more than £3 billion to prevent next year's inevitable increases solely to meet wage inflation. There is, of course, no reason to believe that local authorities, on receipt of such unprecedented largesse, would pass on more than a small fraction of it to the hapless citizen. There would be a bonanza of public expenditure, with only a gesture of charge reduction, especially on the part of the Labour councils. To Labour, the higher the community charge, the more attractive its general election pledge to abolish it will sound.

The burden of the community charge could, of course, be cut by transferring the funding of some services to central government, but in practice the Government pleasure doing business with him, explained that at a rate of exchange of 250 to the £1, I made it £32, which sum I produced. He looked at the notes with as much enthusiasm as he had accorded the MCC card, grubbed in his motorbike bag and took from its depths a copy of *Correio de Manha*, a national tabloid, which he opened at the inside back page, looking over his shoulder. I noted that on the international weather table London had been warmer than Lisbon — and remarked thereon, pleasantly.

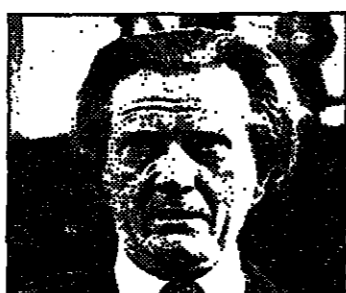
He grunted and turned a page. Benfica had won at home. I tried to translate "Two, Four, Six, Eight, Who do we appreciate, B.E.N.F.I.C.A." He let it pass, along with most of the cars that had been in the queue at the traffic lights. He turned another page, "Industrial dispute by Iberian ground control staff". I told him how it had been at Gatwick — the noise, the people, the delays — and he peered uneasily at the £10 notes I had thrust into his hand while continuing to search the pages of his newspaper for the sterling-escudo exchange rate.

Around that time, I remembered that I had some Portuguese money in the back pocket of my holiday trousers, found a sufficiency thereof and put it into his hand. He gave me back my sterling passport, ticket, rail pass, MCC card, BES prospectus and, after some thought, tore a page from the Avis car rental agreement. A second policeman arrived on a motorbike, possibly to deter me from violence.

I asked if I might go now. He nodded. I got into my car, started the engine, stopped it, got out, went up to the policeman and said: "Now that it is all over, tell me what I did wrong." He said he had seen me do a U-turn on the main road near the Aeroporto traffic lights.

I thought of explaining the legality of such a manoeuvre, considered reminding him that his country and mine were the oldest allies in Europe, toyed with asking for my money back, decided to let this be a lesson to me and muttered: "I understand."

He said "Bom dia". So I said: "Driving licence."



Michael Heseltine suggests higher payments by the better-off and an obligatory election when a council wishes to exceed spending levels laid down by the Government

might find itself blamed for poor standards and find it difficult to resist pressures for ameliorating expenditure. Income tax might have to rise, and, again, there is little to ensure that local authorities, relieved of expenditure, will reduce the community charge as opposed to seeking out new opportunities to spend.

One solution advocated is the introduction of a general "cap", no council allowed to increase its charge bill or its expenditure by more than a stated percentage. In the early 1980s we crawled over this obvious idea, but rejected it.

To cap or control, central government has to choose figures so far above the average that only a limited number of extreme cases are caught. And those below the cap have an implied licence to spend up to it. To extend the cap by lowering its incidence increases the risk of legal challenge. And to design such a system effectively would negate accountability and be an act of centralized political power outside our experience. On these grounds alone it should be resisted.

This brings me to the single biggest change I believe the Government should introduce. Only one factor consistently presses

down on local government expenditure; the fear of electoral defeat. Historically, in election years the rates were held down, while in other years balances built up and expenditure increased.

Local authorities should be free to set and account for their own budgets. What I propose is that, if those budgets exceed by a given percentage the Government's calculations of the sum needed to provide a proper service, an election for the whole council must be held on the issue. I narrowly failed to persuade the Cabinet to adopt this proposal in 1981. I still believe it would work.

It would impose a powerful financial discipline because few councillors would want to risk it; certainly not year after year.

It would be possible to tighten the disciplines further and build in an extra disincentive by imposing a surcharge. A local authority proposing a high community charge would have to hand over a surcharge to the Treasury to compensate for inflationary consequences. The surcharge could rise as excess expenditure rose.

The scales could be weighted against the excess spenders, without removing all their discretion. Local authorities would retain

discretion, and it would be their electorate, not central government, which capped them, without having to wait years to do so.

On to two specific problems. Within the present safety-net provisions, an accident is waiting to happen. Next year the Treasury is to assume responsibility for paying up to £75 per adult on behalf of those councils which this year are contributing to the safety net. But in those authorities with no elections next year there is little incentive to pass on to charge-payers the equivalent of this sum.

On the other hand, other authorities will lose support and will blame the Government. There should be no withdrawal of safety-net support next year. The transitional relief scheme, by which those who were paying a low domestic rate are protected from steep rises in community charge, must be improved and expanded, and must be calculated with greater reference to actual charges and not notional figures of assumed spending.

There are then a number of relatively cheap, but politically expensive, sources of grievance. Tacking the elderly because they remain at home, looked after by their families — when transfer to

old people's homes, thereby increasing public expenditure, would save them personally around £350 a year — seems to me a negation of Tory principles. The deemed assumption by the Government that savings can earn more than 20 per cent is, frankly, incredible. And we have gained the maximum political opprobrium by charging the physically disabled, student nurses and students themselves, with precious little extra revenue to show for it.

There are harsh anomalies following the death of a house-owner. Surely compassion must spare relatives the immediate arrival of a bill for two poll taxes, days after a loved one dies. Local authorities' discretion to charge up to double the community charge in this — and quite a number of other situations — should be restricted. The double burden of community charge and unified business rate on the small businessman living above the shop is unacceptable.

Funding next year's grant settlement will present the Government with its most difficult decision. The settlement itself must be based on realistic economic assumptions. It must also involve a determined adjustment of the standard spending assessments to reflect reality in a wider range of authorities. My instinct is for a realistic settlement, relying on my election proposal to keep the charge down. But realism is not just about local government; it is about the economy at large. The natives may be restless in the constituencies, but the gnomes in Zurich are not doing either.

Finally, I come to the most

controversial aspect of the community charge. The original manifesto commitment said: "We shall abolish the domestic rating system and replace it by taxes more broadly based and related to people's ability to pay." Initially the community charge adopted a flat-rate principle for all, but that has long since been abandoned in the face of political reality. I believe that to honour our original pledge, to appeal to the national sense of fairness and to finance in part the changes I have outlined, the better-off members of the community should pay more.

Banding upwards can in practice, in the short term, only be based on income. There are no insurmountable obstacles, although there will be crudities and criticisms however this is achieved. But these will be criticisms from those who have prospered mightily under this Government. The new arrangements for the community charge would become more acceptable generally and the Labour Party's pledge to abolish it every day less credible.

The Government should instruct its civil servants to work up proposals based on the assumption that everyone will pay something, but that the significantly better-off, by which I mean top-rate taxpayers, will contribute more.

Properly run, local government can be a source of alternative political power, a focal point for civic pride and a sensitive means of involving and serving the people. Central government does not always know best and certainly has no monopoly of prudent administration. But it pays most of the bills and, therefore, there has to be a partnership of power.

Bernard Levin sees the Campbell case as reason for a new look at the libel laws

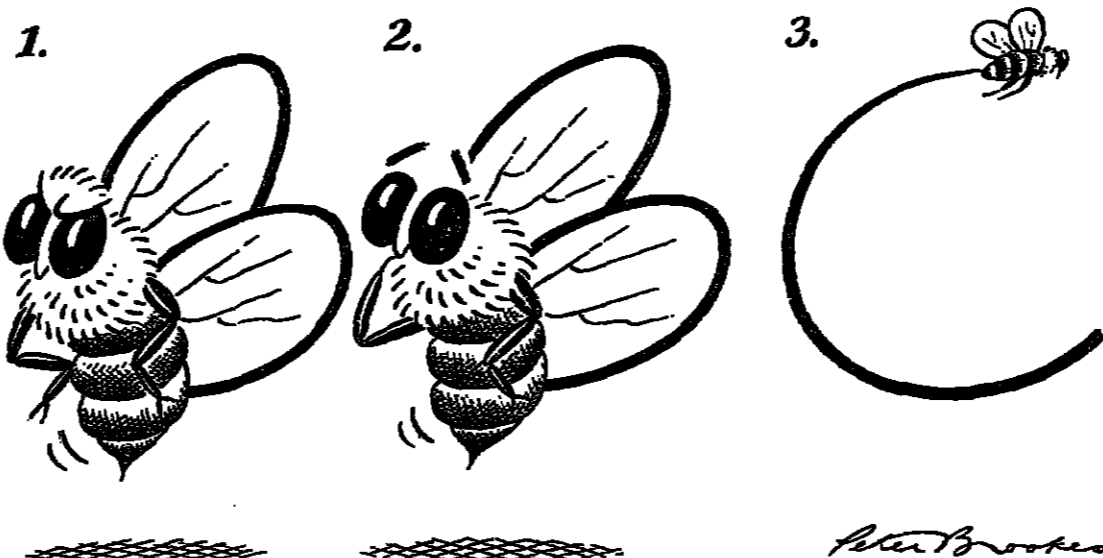
Faction with a sting in the tale

Is everybody mad but me? I ask the question in the wake of the Duncan Campbell libel action, settled last week by the BBC on payment of £50,000 in damages and another £50,000 or so in legal costs (oh, in my next life I am going to be a lawyer, oh yes I am, I tell you). The BBC had originally offered £5,000; were I the man who runs the BBC (which, thank the Lord, I'm not, Sir), rather than sticking a nought on the end and giving in, I would have reduced the offer to a crumpled tenner and fought the thing from here to eternity.

Before I argue my claim, there are some obvious things to be said, though in truth they are so obvious that I really should not waste time on them. First, of course, Mr Campbell is not a transvestite, he is not a fetishist, he is not a compulsive shoplifter, and he is not a journalist so negligent in his work that people who trust him find themselves betrayed.

I must pause here to point out that on the first two items he should have been non-suited anyway; it is not a crime to be a transvestite or a fetishist, nor is it something so revolting that no decent person could associate with one who practised such arcane pleasures even if he didn't do it in the street and frighten the horses; anyway, the question does not arise, because he wasn't either, let alone both. Nor, I repeat, was he guilty of the two real charges — thieving from shops and shopping his informants.

These things, though, were attributed in a play screened by the BBC to a character called "David Dunhill". (The paucity of imagination shown by the BBC's drama department can give you a hiccups; anyone but that lot would at least have had the sense to name the character Lester Dashwood, Fontwater or Karl Dobermann-Pinscher or even Roy Hattersley.) David Dunhill, in the play, was an investigative journalist specializing in the exposure of military fiddles (British ones, of course),



which is much the same as what Campbell does for a living. There was an announcement attached to the broadcast, making clear that what was to follow was fiction, but the similarity of name, trade, professional experience and, it seems, even appearance, could hardly have been entirely coincidental, and when criminal behaviour was added to the portrait of the character, it added up to defamation, whereupon Mr Campbell sued.

Let us jump forward, at this point, to Mr Campbell's solicitor making his statement in court after the case had been settled. In such places the rule is to lay it on thick, but I do feel that the bilge content in this instance was enough to drown everybody in sight from the Law Courts to the far end of the Strand. Here, after all, is a journalist with many a real scoop to his name, who has tangled not only with bureaucracy but the law, who is as dogged in his pursuit of his professional quarry as any mule, who has had the Special Branch raiding his home, who has been threatened and ignored the threats, and who has even fallen off his bicycle and

bashed his face rather badly, yet carried on; and it is of this man that the following is said: "... the central character was taken by a number of viewers to be a representation of Mr Campbell's personal and professional life", and "... the film caused profound distress and professional embarrassment to Campbell..."

I used the word bilge: was it too strong? For who is this shrinking flower weeping into his pillow night after night with the distress — nay, the profound distress — and professional embarrassment that the film has caused him? Why, who but Mr Duncan Campbell, the Terror of the MoD, the Bane of Thatcher, the Man with his Eye to a Thousand Keyholes, whose life has been ruined (or will be if he doesn't get a gigantic pile of spotnicks to dry his tears on) by being portrayed "with only a cat and a domineering mother for company".

Look, mate. You were only supposed to have a domineering mother; let me tell you that I did have, and not in a play, a Jewish mother, and to this day, if I drink a cup of hot tea just before leaving the house I still put my hand over

mouth, in case I catch cold. Beat that, namby-pamby. (As for the cat, I have 17, but they are made of wood, stone or cloth, and I live alone quite happily. You can borrow some of my CDs if it will make you feel better.)

Bilge I said, and bilge I meant. "A number of viewers" took the fictional character for the real one; what was the exact number? He suffered "profound distress"; what was the exact profundity, measured by official Navy sonar, of the said distress? He was caused "professional embarrassment"; exactly how many of his colleagues, employers, sources and editors, having seen the film, instantly took to crossing the road whenever they saw him coming?

Mr Campbell was libelled; he does not steal, nor does he put his informants at risk, nor does he dress in frilly knickers, nor is his mother domineering, nor is his cat his only friend, etc. etc. But why does it follow, as it apparently does, that a man who has been libelled seriously, let alone as trivially as in this case, must necessarily sue? I have been libelled scores of times, but once have I even considered suing,

though fifty thou would nestle in my pocket as warmly as in Mr Campbell's.

And the BBC caved in! How is the present madness in the libel courts, where any plaintiff has an odds-on chance of massive damages, however absurd his case, to be ended if an organization like the BBC, having sensibly offered £5,000 in settlement, goes mad and agrees to the figure being multiplied by 10?

As it happens, there is an answer to that question. From time to time, there have been suggestions that the law of slander should be brought into line with the law of libel; the crucial difference between them is (with a few exceptions) that in libel, damage is assumed if the defamation is proved, but in slander actual damage must be shown. A.P. Herbert, I recall, frequently argued the case for the equality of slander, saying that it was absurd that words written on a postcard were more dangerous than words shouted from the house-tops.

I think that for once A.P. got things the wrong way round. Surely, what we need is a libel law which demands the same admirable test as slander does now. Had such a law existed when Mr Campbell was defamed, he would have had to prove that, say, friends ceased to see him and commissions dried up. It may well be that he could have proved as much, but the Flight of the Bumble-BBC made it impossible to discover what exactly were the results of the film for him. If he could have shown damage, he would have been entitled to monetary compensation; my own feeling is that journalists ought not to sue anyway, and I go further and say that a successful plaintiff ought to have his costs and a publicly-promulgated statement of the outcome of the action, but not damages. Does nobody remember the jingle of my childhood, which went "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me"?

Ghost with a past

Fresh controversy seems certain to break out around the released Guildford Four with two of them due to publish autobiographies soon. Gerard Conlan's story is being ghosted by *Guardian* journalist David Fallister, and has already led to ructions on the paper over its own coverage of the case. Paul Hill's autobiography, *Stolen Years: Before and After Guildford*, is being rushed out at the beginning of July, and is described by Doubleday, the publisher, as a "well-written, wonderful human interest story". Hill's co-writer, Ronan Bennett, is no stranger to controversy. Three years ago, on the advice of the security services, the Speaker withdrew his House of Commons pass, issued by Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn, when it was revealed that in 1975 Bennett had been convicted of murdering a Northern Ireland police officer and sentenced to life imprisonment, though the conviction was overturned on appeal.

Later, Bennett admitted to working as a full-time member of the Anarchist movement in Britain, but he insisted yesterday: "My own politics are irrelevant. The book is written solely in Paul's voice." His personal experience of prison, police interrogation and a major trial enhanced his qualifications to write the book, he says. "People cannot understand how someone can make a false confession to something they did not do. I can."

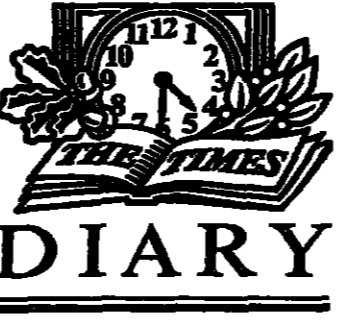
Will the book exhibit Republican, or even IRA sympathies? "It

will reflect the views common to anyone who grew up in Belfast at the time of internment," says Bennett. "I also urge the release of the Birmingham Six, whose conviction he describes as 'another failure of the system of criminal justice'. Whether their chances of release will be improved by having their cause taken up in so controversial a book remains to be seen.

Another name to add to the list here yesterday of prominent people of Lithuanian descent, Joe Slovo, leading light of the ANC and South African Communist party leader, was actually born there — which probably makes him the only Lithuanian who still enthusiastically embraces the party line.

Apprenticeship

Advisers to two potential contenders for the Tory leadership have been locked in battle for nomination for the safe seat of Devesh — with the fate of the winner possibly in the hands of two former Labour MPs. Tessa Keswick, special adviser to Kenneth Clarke, the Health Secretary, and Patrick Rock, adviser to Chris Patten at the Environment Department, were among the 300 hopefuls who applied for the vacancy created by Sir Charles Morrison's decision to stand down at the next election. Both made the shortlist of 20, but Rock has failed to make it to the last eight. Keswick, a leading figure behind-the-scenes in the reform of the health service, now faces tough opposition from John Horam, formerly Labour MP for Gateshead West, whose political odyssey took him to the SDP in



1981 before switching to the Tories three years ago. He has ministerial experience, is well fancied — and must at least have the sympathy, if not the support, of the chairman of the Devesh Conservative Association selection panel. He is none other than Sir Reg Prentice, the former Labour cabinet minister who crossed the floor of the House in 1977, was rewarded with a safe Conservative seat in the 1979 general election and made a minister in Mrs Thatcher's first government.

Noises off

A silent film of *Der Rosenkavalier* made in 1926, complete with sand-wich-board translations of German subtitles and an accompanying live performance, may sound like something from the wider fringes of the Edinburgh Festival, but just such a multimedia extravaganza will be seen at the Festival Hall this month. The film of Richard Strauss's opera, not seen since its British premiere 64 years ago because of the composer's disapproval, will be screened as part of the Music

for Life day organized by the Aids charity, Cruisaid. When the film first appeared, Strauss himself conducted the accompanying orchestra and singers before disowning it. The City of

It should fit in with the noisy paintings.



Birmingham Touring Opera will provide the Festival Hall soundtrack, and in a bizarre variation of the Royal Opera's controversial procedure, opera critics will hold aloft placards bearing English translations of the film's German subtitles.

Portillo priority

Michael Portillo, who has just landed the thankless task of selling the poll tax to a reluctant electorate, has made his first task selling its virtues to his fellow Tory MPs. Virtually all other engagements have been cancelled while he undertakes a series of what an aide described yesterday as "endless meetings" with his own backbenchers, whose anxieties about their future have not been relieved by the results of last week's local government elections. The move is interpreted at Westminster as a sign of how seriously the leadership has taken

warnings not to assume that the worst is over on the poll tax. Portillo's appointment, working under Chris Patten's wing, is the latest in a string of coincidences. He joined Patten at the Conservative Research Department on May 3, 1976, began work for the Prime Minister on May 3, 1979, and was formally told of his latest job on May 3, 1990.

A sleuth rewarded

Norman Sherry, author of that exhaustive biography of Graham Greene, has, like his subject, been awarded an Edgar by the Mystery Writers of America Inc. It recognizes not so much his mastery of the whodunnit but howdunnit: his single-minded shadowing of Greene's far-flung wanderings over a period of 20 years — to West Africa, the Americas, the Congo, Vietnam, and, of course, Brighton — to describe the settings of Greene's novels and to record his every action of any significance (and some, it must be confessed, of none). The award, in the form of a bust of Edgar Allan Poe, the guiding spirit of the MWA, has surprised the British-born author, who now lives in Texas. "I have never regarded myself as a 'mystery writer'," he said yesterday. But his odyssey was replete with mystery, as he concedes in the preface to his book. Greene, he wrote, "is noted for his determination to protect his privacy and keep secret what he wishes to keep secret". Indeed, when Sherry asked Greene for a map of his journeys, the author duly complied — but added the note: "You are my biographer, you date my journeys."



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 9: His Excellency Señor Don Felipe de la Morena was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letter of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Spain to the Court of St James.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señor Don José Ignacio Carbajal (Minister Counsellor), Captain Don Alejandro Cuervo (Defence Attaché), Señor Don Fernando Serrano-Suñer (Minister, Cultural Affairs), Señor Don Ramón Sáenz de Heredia (Minister, Foreign Affairs), Señor Don Bernabé (Minister, Commercial Affairs), Señor Don Ramón Ansoáin (Minister, Consular Affairs), Lieutenant-Colonel Don José María Colado (Air Attaché) and Lieutenant-Colonel Don Juan Ortúño (Military Attaché).

Señora de la Morena was also received by Her Majesty, Mr Roger Tomlins (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and the Captain of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were received by the Queen.

The Queen received the Bishop of Ely (the Right Reverend Stephen Whitefield Sykes), who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by the Right Hon David Waddington, QC, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department) and did homage upon his appointment.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Chelmsford (Clerk of the Closet to the Queen) and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh left after a visit to the London Zoo and were received by Professor Avron Mitchison (President, Zoological Society of London).

Her Majesty, escorted by Dr David Jones (Director of Zoos) inaugurated the Elephant Training Project for Central Kenya and subsequently opened the Lifewatch Centre and unveiled a

commemorative plaque.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh afterwards toured the Zoo.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this morning attended the Annual General Meeting of the Central Council of Physical Recreation at National Westminster Hall, 25 Old Broad Street, London EC2.

Major Sir Guy Acland, BT was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PLACE May 9: The Duke of Kent this morning visited the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Satellite Up-link Site at Chilworth, Southampton and visited the Independent Broadcasting Authority at Crawley, Court, Winchester, Hampshire.

This evening His Royal Highness, as Visitor of Cranfield Institute of Technology, attended the Annual Dinner of the Court at Silsoe College, Cranfield, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, and received an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Society of Music, Her Royal Highness visited the Glasgow Branch of the Samaritans in West Regent Street.

Mrs Peter Wilmut-Sirwell was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE May 9: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Anglian Regiment, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Longland on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Deed on assuming the appointment.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE May 9: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy today carried out engagements on Gloucester on the occasion of the Liberation Day Celebrations.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Women of the North Mrs Kitty Thorp, founder-president, presided at the twenty-fifth Women of the North luncheon held yesterday at the Hotel Majestic, Harrogate, in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child. Baroness Cox, Miss Molly Weir, Mrs Julie Stevens and Miss Dora Bryan also spoke.

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Augustin-Jean Fresnel, physicist, Broglie, France, 1788; James Byre, 1st Viscount of Bective, 1812; Benito Galdos, novelist, Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 1843; Karl Barth, theologian, Basel, 1886.

DEATHS: Leonard Fuchs, physicist and botanist, Uster, Switzerland, 1960; Uliassi Adrovandi, naturalist, Bologna, 1905; Jean de La Bruyère, writer, Versailles, 1696; Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1774; George Vancouver, explorer, Richmond, Surrey, 1798; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; George Clint, portrait painter, London, 1854; Thomas Jonathan ("Stonewall") Jackson, Confederate general in the American Civil War, Chancellorsville, Virginia, 1863; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer, London, 1904; Joan Crawford, actress, New York, 1977; J B Morton, ("Beachcomber"), satirist and historian, Worthing, 1979.

The Indian Mutiny began, 1857.

London Hospital A service of thanksgiving and dedication to mark the 250th anniversary of the London Hospital was held yesterday in St Paul's Cathedral. The Dean of St Paul's officiated assisted by Dame Margaret Turner, former matron-in-chief and director, Army Nursing Service, 80.

Luncheons Norwegian Chamber of Commerce Mr Ole Sig Kvernstad, President of the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, presided at the annual luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mrs Kaci Kullmann Frim, Norwegian Minister of Trade and Shipping, was the guest of honour and the Norwegian Ambassador attended.

Forthcoming marriages Mr C.G. Gilbert and Miss M.J. Libby The engagement is announced between Christopher Gilbert, son of Mr and Mrs J. Gilbert, of Somerset West, South Africa, and Melinda Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Libby, of Kingston, Surrey.

Mr D.A. Harrod and Miss J.M. Elsdon-Dew The engagement is announced between David, son of Major-General and Mrs L.A.D. Harrod, of the Grange, Marshfield, Dorset, and Jane, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R.W. Elsdon-Dew, of March House, Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr N.J. Jones and Miss J. Lloyd-Williams The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of His Honour Judge Graham Jones and Mrs Jones, of Radyr, Cardiff, and Jane, only daughter of Capt and Mrs W. Lloyd-Williams, of Holyhead, Anglesey.

Mr C.J. Llewellyn and Miss M.G. Campbell The engagement is announced between Ivor, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Llewellyn, of Benhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, and Georgia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Campbell, of Rothsay Terrace, Edinburgh.

Mr W.F. Longrigg and Miss D. Gröber The engagement is announced between William Fallowfield, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.J.F. Longrigg, of Northam Road, Oxford, and Dorothea, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Gröber, of Waldstut, West Germany.

Mr J. Newman Hamilton and Miss V.E. Carter The engagement is announced between Hamish, son of Mr and Mrs G. Newman Hamilton, of Stenton, Dunbar, and Venetia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Carter, of High Holms, Steel, Hexham, Northumberland.

Mr N.J. Stanton and Miss O.C.A. Morrison The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Mr and Mrs William C. Stanton, of Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Morrison-Bowie, of Woodstock.

Mr C.J. Weaver and Miss H.M. Perrins The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs F.G. Weaver, of Leire, Leicestershire, and Hilary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Perrins, of Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.

OBITUARIES

CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FIAICH

Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, died aged 66 on May 8. He was born on November 23, 1923.

TOMÁS Ó Fiaich was the right man in the right place at tragically the wrong time. His sense of identity with the Catholic people of South Armagh, from whom he sprang and whose spiritual leader he became, could be doubted by none who knew him.

It showed itself in simple habits of speech, behaviour and leisure interests. While a Professor at the national seminary in Maynooth he spent as many weekends as he could on visits to his home parish of Crossmaglen. There he liked to assist in the work of the local clergy and to turn out in support of the county Gaelic football team. At a deeper level, his consciousness of origin stimulated much of his research as a professional historian.

Both in personality and achievement Monsignor Ó Fiaich seemed well fitted to undertake the pastoral care of a community among whom he was literally at home, especially at a time when Border atrocities and consequent army actions were causing severe distress in the area.

What met the needs of Armagh Catholics did not necessarily serve the wider interests of the Irish Church. The very attributes which endeared him to his own people made him appear narrow-minded and one-sided on the broader stage. As Archbishop of Armagh, he was ex officio Primate of All Ireland with a national as well as a diocesan function. The Northern crisis prevented an easy merging of the two roles.

Unionists, who at first welcomed the appointment of an Ulsterman with whose temperament they felt in tune, began to judge him guilty by association: they translated his concern for friends and neighbours under harassment into a half-condonation of violence. In the overheated atmosphere of suspicion permeating so much of Northern life, even the Cardinal's interest in Irish and his use of the Irish version of his name struck some Unionists as blatant allegiance to an ethos not only alien but hostile as well.

Catholics in the South and West of the country naturally felt no antagonism of this kind, but the Cardinal was not well-known to them and they tended to see him sometimes as a spokesman for the Northern minority rather than as the Church leader charged with speaking in the name of all Irish Catholics.

These assessments were simplistic and unjust, as also was the English inclination to write him off as an "impossible" Irishman. The Cardinal's curriculum vitae helps to redress the balance. He was born at Crossmaglen, County Armagh, the second son of Annie and Patrick Fee (who used the anglicized form of the surname). His father was principal of the local primary school and here Tomás received his early education before going on to Saint Patrick's College, Armagh, and ultimately in 1940 to Maynooth, where he took a First in Celtic Studies.

He was ordained in Wexford in 1948. His potential as a scholar had already been identified. Instead of assigning him to a parish, the Armagh diocesan authorities sent him to University College, Dublin, to study early and medieval Irish history. Father Ó Fiaich took his MA in 1950, again gaining First Class honours, and then went on to Louvain to acquire a licentiate in



historical science *summa cum laude* and a thorough competence in French and German. After serving briefly as a Curate in Moy, County Tyrone, he became Lecturer in Modern History at Maynooth in 1953 and Professor of Modern History in 1959.

From this base he took part in a number of extracurricular activities. He perfected his knowledge of the Irish language on successive holidays in Donegal and was chosen to be president of the association for Irish-speaking priests, *Cumann na Sogair*. He launched the competition *Glór na nGael* to promote the use of Irish in towns and villages throughout the country. State recognition came when the government invited him to chair the Commission on the Restoration of Irish and later to be chairman of *Comhairle na nGael*, the advisory council to oversee implementation of the Commission's findings. For many years he maintained a prolific output of lectures and articles on medieval Irish history.

In 1964 his fellow-graduates elected Father Ó Fiaich to the Senate of the National University of Ireland. He was also a member of the Higher Education Authority from 1972 to 1974. He became President of Maynooth in 1974 at a difficult time for the old institution, now part semi-cum-papal university and part secular university within the Irish state system. On August 23, 1977, Pope

Paul VI nominated him to be the 113th *Comharba Phádraig* or successor of Saint Patrick in the See of Armagh. It was the first time in 110 years that a priest not already a bishop was elevated to the Primacy. At the consistory of June 1979 Pope John Paul II conferred the Cardinal's hat on Archbishop Ó Fiaich.

His episcopacy began on a fresh note, and indeed on an unusual platform, for an Irish Catholic Bishop. In a lengthy interview published by the *Belfast Telegraph* he suggested that the time had come for the Republic to consider adopting a new constitution. His reasoning was ecumenical: "a very short basic document", he said, would serve as a constitution acceptable to Catholics and Protestants alike.

Under his chairmanship, the Irish Bishops were to make a number of progressive statements on international questions such as nuclear disarmament and the exploitation of the Third World. Economic measures at home, leading to unemployment and other social ills, was also criticized and the problems posed by sexual relationships in the modern world were spoken of at least in a caring tone.

As President of the Irish episcopal conference, however, Cardinal Ó Fiaich conspicuously lacked the skill of his predecessor, Cardinal William Conway, in anticipating events. No agreed position had been formulated by the

Bishops in advance of the campaign in 1983 to write a prohibition of abortion into the Republic's constitution. The Bishops were similarly left floundering in 1985 when the government introduced a measure to remove anomalies in the law regulating the sale of contraceptives. On each occasion a late intervention by Cardinal Ó Fiaich struck a moderately liberal note. He pointed out on behalf of the episcopal conference that Catholics could, in good faith, oppose constitutional change without incurring the charge of approving abortion.

However, in 1986, when the government proposed a further constitutional change which would have removed the ban on divorce in the Republic, the Cardinal, in the name of all the Bishops, advised against it while still allowing for Catholics within limits to adopt in conscience values different from those of their Church leaders on the appropriate policy for the State.

The commitment to practical ecumenism continued. At the annual Glenstal conference and elsewhere the Cardinal used to acknowledge the obligation on Catholics, as the largest body of Irish Christians, to make the greatest effort — and it need be, the greatest concession — in pursuit of the ecumenical ideal. Sadly, the Cardinal failed to carry this commitment very far in inter-church dialogue, in theological discussion or in the pastoral practice of the

teaching and charity. Together the four Christian communities met regularly for shared worship, scripture studies and the seeking after initiatives for the making of peace and, where possible, the removal of injustices in contemporary society.

No tribute could omit mention of the spirit of cheerfulness which Tomás Ó Fiaich brought to many in their homes and parishes. His sociability and his joy in living were not quenched by the tragic sufferings which faced him through those years. He grieved deeply when the killings continued, when all kinds of distress, inside and outside prison, blighted the lives of those caught up in conflict. He spoke out spontaneously and openly with a forthrightness he had always possessed. He also prayed deeply and continually for signs of hope and new initiatives which would work together for good.

Many have spoken warmly of the Cardinal's readiness to listen and his human approach to all and sundry, including some traditional opponents. However, the new courtesies that followed the second Vatican Council were for him far from superficial. He was ready to be the humble learner, especially when he found sincerely held convictions which earned respect when they stemmed from the common ground of Christian

in popular form. Through song and music, he captured the atmosphere of a noble faith that has survived the storms and stresses of chequered history. The bard, the scribe and the scholar, as well as the Bishop, shone through his personality. He did not want anyone to ignore their history but he kept on reminding his listeners of the great need to understand it. He was full of deep feeling for the country in whose history he was steeped.

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Dinners

The Speaker The Speaker and Mrs Weatherill gave a dinner in Speaker's Hall last night. The guests were:

Mr Michael Joseph, MP, and Mrs Michael Joseph; Mr Robert Hickey, MP, and Mrs Robert Hickey; Mr Thomas McGovern, MP, and Mrs Thomas McGovern; Mr John McAvoy, MP, and Mrs John McAvoy; Mr Alan Hume, MP, and Mrs Alan Hume; Mr Peter Hume, MP, and Mrs Peter Hume; Mr Alan Salmon, MP, and Mrs Alan Salmon; Mr Clare Short, MP, and Mrs Clare Short; Mr and Mrs Vladimir Baschkin; Mr and Mrs Anthony Black; Mr and Mrs Peter Dennis; Mr and Mrs David Wade; Mr Gordon Boydell and Mr and Mrs Robert Stiles.

London House for Overseas Graduates Mr G.S.P. Carden, Chairman of the London House Trust, and Mr David Emms, Director of London House for Overseas Graduates, received the guests at a dinner for New Zealand graduates of London House and William Goodenough House held last night at Mecklenburgh Square to mark the New Zealand in Great Britain 1990 celebrations. The High Commissioner for New Zealand and Mrs Anne Blackburn were among the guests.

Association of British Factors & Discounters The Annual Dinner of the Association of British Factors & Discounters took place at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Thraupine Street, last evening, May 9, 1990. Guest of Honour and speaker was Tim Eggar, MP, Minister of State at the Department of Employment. Leslie Bland, Chairman of the Association, presided.

Appointments Latest appointments include: Mr Bernard Leopold Charles, QC, to be a circuit judge assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Professor Andrew Sims, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Leeds, to be President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Latest wills

Sir George Oswald Browning Allen, of London NW8, "Gubby" Allen, the former England cricket captain, selector and president of the MCC, left estate valued at £928,987 net. He left memorabilia and a financial bequest to the MCC.

Dr Joan Margaret Mackinnon, of Leeds, West Yorkshire, daughter of the first Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, left estate valued at £237,583 net.

Miss Grace Hilary Goodwin, of Gillingham, Kent, left estate valued at £89,847 net. She left £3,500 and effects to personal legatees, 12 freehold properties at Gillingham to Help the Aged, and the residue to a number of other charities.

Sir Roger Aubrey Baskerville Meyers, of Treago, St Leonards, Herefordshire, a former Professor of Latin at Cambridge and then at Oxford, left estate valued at £590,308 net.

Mr Herbert Finch, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £227,257 net. He left a personal legacy of £500, and the residue equally between Dr Barnardo's and the Children's Society.

Helen Mary Hall, of Rickinghall, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,024,047 net.

Lady Barbara Mary Hedges, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, widow of Sir John Hedges, former solicitor and chairman of Abingdon Conservative Association, left £1,323,731 net.

Professor Norman Davis, of Oxford, former Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford University, left estate valued at £386,952 net. He left personal legacies totalling £1,500; £1,000 each to the Rare Books Fund of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and Merton College, Oxford, to benefit their libraries; and the residue to the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, for the William Evans Fund, with the wish awards be made in memory of his parents.

Other estates include (net before tax paid):

Sir Louis Barkworth of Seaford, East Sussex £749,075. Mr Mervyn Stanley Bastable, of Wincanton, Somerset £747,525.

School news Pangbourne College 1990 Scholarships 1990 The following awards have been made for September, 1990:

Scholarships Academic: James C. Renwick (Ole All Rounder); Richard E. Jenner (Ole All Rounder); Robert A. Woods (Ole All Rounder).

Music: Timothy J. Meera (Pangbourne College); John J. Jones (Ole All Rounder); Christopher D. Whitfield (Ole All Rounder); Nicholas G. Cairns (Pangbourne College); Junior School Scholarships 1990 Academic: Mark R. Laver (Ole All Rounder); Reading.

CDR PHILIP WOOD

Commander Philip Wood, DSC, submarine commander, died aged 69 on May 8. He was born on March 7, 1921.

PHILIP WOOD was one of the finest and most popular submarine Commanding Officers of his time, and had the distinction of winning two DSCs long before gaining his first command.

He entered the Royal Navy as a Special Entry Cadet in May, 1939, in the same term as Prince Philip. His Midshipman's time, 1940-41, was spent in the Mediterranean in the cruiser *Liverpool* and the battleship *Barham*. He later served in the destroyer *Beagle* on Murmansk convoys and was mentioned in dispatches.

Early in 1943 he was conscripted into submarines, which he soon found to be greatly to his liking. After five months patrolling out of Algiers in HMS *Silver*, he went to *Sportsman* as First Lieutenant to Lieutenant Richard Gatehouse, with whom he formed an effective and happy team. His first DSC came in August, 1944, after *Sportsman* had completed 10 war patrols in the Central Mediterranean and the Aegean.

He was next sent to the Far East to join the unwieldy mine-laying submarine *Rorqual*, whose vulnerability, especially in shallow waters, was apparent in that she alone of her class survived the War. Wood's distinguished service in her earned him a Bar to his DSC.

His service after the war included a spell in Hong Kong in *Astute* (the first of the A Class submarines to be launched from Cammell Laird's yard) and a period in command of X-craft 4-man submarines. After 1949 he held two submarine commands at sea, of *Thorough* and *Tireless*.

Then, he had two years on the Nato planning staff in Ankara, followed by a year, 1957-58, in command of the destroyer *Camperdown*. He was next sent to take over the depleted 4th Submarine Squadron, by then based on Sydney and working for the Royal Australian Navy. This turned out to be a professional backwater, away from the mainstream of promotion to Captain, much to the dismay of his friends.

In 1964 he was retired at his own request and went to work for Stewart Wrightson, a leading insurance brokers at Lloyds. He ran their Tehran office during the uneasy closing years of the Shah's rule, returning with a valuable network of personal and commercial contacts. For his last years in the brokerage business he opened a new office for Stewart Wrightson in Bahrain, which he built from scratch as a highly successful operation.

Retiring in 1985, he looked to the fulfilment of his long-cherished dream — to make a home by restoring a fortified farmhouse on the foothills of the Alpes Maritimes, with a distant view of the Gulf of Fréjus across stunning Provençal countryside. He and his talented wife had barely started the work of conversion and landscaping before his terminal illness was diagnosed.

He chose to endure the long, painful and debilitating treatment locally rather than return to London specialists. The remissions he enjoyed were brief, but always just enough to keep alive the unspoken hope which was never extinguished among his family and friends. But it was not to be, as he well knew.

His wife, Pamela, survives him with two of the four sons of their marriage. The early deaths of the other two were cruel blows which he bore with the same courage and dignity as he did his last illness.

ARTS

It's my expensive opera ticket and I'll boo if I want to

Richard Morrison on the new readiness to register disapproval by dissatisfied audiences

British opera audiences, it seems, are stoic no longer. In the old days we would sit with tolerance through every producer's aberration and cracked top C. We might moderate our applause into a lukewarm trickle, but rarely would we unleash the full punitive force of a boo.

There was a kind of Olympian attitude. The important thing, according to this code, was that these vast individuals had obviously expended much energy simply moving about the stage, not that they had given a wretched performance.

Alas, the world is harsher now. At Covent Garden on Monday a tenor in *Il trovatore* failed to hit the high notes at the end of "Di quella pira". That is, admittedly, the operatic equivalent of running

out of petrol on Hammersmith flyover in the rush-hour. Booring started to interrupt the performance. Even more worrying, someone in the gallery pulled a cruel stunt which is common practice in Italy, but has never been done in England before: he shouted the Italian words which the tenor had failed to sing.

That caps a London operatic season which has sometimes been more notable for vocal contributions from the auditorium than from the stage. Booring the production team has become almost *de rigueur* at the London Coliseum, when English National Opera reveals its latest "barbed wire and swastikas" version of Verdi.

ENO's management, moreover, appears to revel in the "riot at the opera" treatment they are receiving on newspapers' front pages: it amounts to thousands of pounds in free advertising.

Why have British audiences suddenly started to behave like Italians? Is it something to do with 1992? Or a reaction to the ever-greater cost of going to the opera? Is it because some British listeners have learnt to differentiate between good singing and bad; or because those who like "traditional" stagings (with kings who wear crowns, and painted backcloths of rocks and forests), have overcome shocked speechlessness, and are shouting back?

We still have some way to go before we can match the full, heart-pounding atmosphere of La Scala, Milan. The "clashes" there, who cheer their own favourites and boo everyone else's, have raised the art of vicious partisanship to a professional level — in every sense. Guest stars, unaware of local customs, are surprised to be visited before a performance by sinister-looking men who require "sweetening" before they can assure the singer that the audience will love every moment. It has been going on for centuries: the rivalry between the Callas and Tebaldi clashes was most notorious; but the coming of television to La Scala first nights has given

the boos and hisses even greater possibilities for disruption.

Is it the strong and (let us be honest) usually crude emotions depicted on the operatic stage which encourage equally strong and crude behaviour from otherwise well-behaved middle-class patrons? Certainly, booring is almost never heard in the West End's spoken theatre. Occasions such as the first night, in 1969, of Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw* — when Ralph Richardson, Coral Browne and Stanley Baxter, required to engage in something steamily incestuous, received a ringing volley of boos for their pains — are famous precisely because they are rare. The irony is

that *What the Butler Saw* now has the status of a modern classic. Audience disapproval in the spoken theatre is more often expressed by the noisy walkout, whether from boredom or anger.

In the concert world, too, audience protest is regarded as the work of madmen, if it happens at all. A few years ago, a worthy English conductor was plunging through a Bach cantata in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, when a lady suddenly left her seat in the stalls, walked up to the podium, tapped the unfortunate maestro on the shoulder, and said: "What do you think you are doing?" Many in the hall thought it was a reasonable question, but she was gently led away without receiving a reply. There are still places where it just "isn't done" to complain.

All hits at one remove

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Knussen
Birmingham Town Hall

THIS was a neat programme, of Schnittke's Fourth Symphony paired with extracts from Mussorgsky operas, the music of both composers throwing deep roots into Russian chant and bell sounds. The concert began with Mussorgsky, with *Night on the Bare Mountain*, in a performance of savage brilliance: Oliver Knussen had the Birmingham orchestra making big, fat sounds cut with electric sharpness.

After that came a snapshot view of *Khovanshchina*, incorporating the prelude, Marfa's aria, the hieratic Act IV *entracte* and the finale of confident prayer from the flames. There followed the coronation scene from *Boris*, distinguished by the superb, thickly Russian and commanding tenor of Stephen Richardson and also by lively acclamations from the CBSO Chorus, slicing through the over-loud recorded bells.

This was altogether a treat of a tour through Mussorgsky's greatest hits, though in a sense none of the music was actually by Mussorgsky: *Night on the Bare Mountain* and the *Boris* excerpt were done in the ubiquitous Rimsky-Korsakov arrangements, and the *Khovanshchina* suite crammed in orchestration by Shostakovich, Stokowski and Stravinsky, of whom Stravinsky took the medal for discretion.

Somewhat in the same way, none of the music in Schnittke's Fourth Symphony is actually by Schnittke, since the work, playing for an unbroken and generally slow 40 minutes, is a compilation from Jewish, Orthodox and western Christian chants.

It is as if the composer were being heard from behind a curtain, sometimes thumping hard at the old heavy velvet (much of the piano writing is crashing and bass-heavy; David Horne, amplified, made it accusatory in its power and intensity), elsewhere seeming to let events take their course, as in the laments for solo tenor and mezzo, passionately sung here by Hugh Hetherington and Mary King, or the final choral prayer, all wordless.

Perhaps this is the music of a silenced church: one longs to know what Schnittke is hearing in the new Russia.

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonia/Inbal
Festival Hall

FOR all her undoubted talent, Mitsuko Uchida has perhaps become unfairly typecast in the Mozart piano repertoire. She went about as far as she could go in a different direction to exploit the keyboard's chordal and percussive qualities in the first and most uncompromising of Bartók's Concertos. Inexorable rhythmic pressure was maintained, and she was not at all fazed by demands on technique which at one point require double-octave chords to be struck with the thumb of each hand applied to a black and white key simultaneously.

Elihu Inbal and the Philharmonia went part way to realizing the composer's wishes about percussion, positioning only the side-drums (with and without snares) close to the pianist instead of the fuller battery, and allowing slightly more strings than Bartók specified. The pianist was able to pick up some added resonance from the close drum taps; to contrast linear clarity with chromatic complexity, and to bring logical conviction to disjunct passage-work in the interests of a persuasive performance.

The conductor prefaced the Magyar features of Bartók with the *Dances from Galanta* by his fellow Hungarian, Kodály, using varied rhythm to build and release tension in a highly pictorial way. After the break the orchestra were taken into even more graphic detail with the musical dancings of *Petrushka*. Stravinsky's dazzling ballet is worth hearing divorced from the theatre only when, as here, it is played in the original large-scale orchestration, reminding us how much is lost by the later reduced version now commonly forced on dance performances.

Its one curious feature is the prominent *concertante* piano part in the first two scenes, which is then abandoned for all the rest. Here it added the requisite glitter and poignancy to the texture we heard, and moderate speeds were favoured on the whole, except for a solo trumpet in the Ballerina's Dance taken too fast for comfort and the snarling *Petrushka* lacking the necessary smack of finality. Otherwise the shaded and balanced detail renewed the excitement of the whole.

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Spirit of reconciliation

Jeremy Harding reports on David Lan's new play, which is set in Zimbabwe at the end of the war of independence, and has its first performance tonight in London

The trilogy of plays completed by *Desire* has taken South Africa-born playwright David Lan, a decade to complete. Set in a peasant community in northern Zimbabwe in 1980, just after the war of independence, *Desire* hinges on a strange sickness affecting Rosemary, an innocent young villager who never took up arms during the conflict.

As Rosemary's illness grows, it becomes clear that the spirit of a dead Zimbabwean guerrilla — another young woman, named Freedom — wishes to communicate through her.

If this seems a little fanciful, we should consider David Lan's own background. In 1980, he was doing fieldwork in northern Zimbabwe among the Shona people. Lan was working as an ethnographer; he was interested in the wartime alliance he had heard of between the spirit mediums in the rural areas of Zimbabwe and the guerrilla movement which had operated in their midst. His published study, *Guns and Rain*, is the story of a graceful encounter between change and continuity, the present and the past, the living and the dead.

Lan found a new cultural ecol-

ogy in the rural areas of Zimbabwe, and equilibrium was the key to its survival: in trance, the spirit mediums gave a voice to the dead ancestors, who in turn offered counsel to the community and assured the continuing validity of ancient customs in a period of great upheaval.

At the same time, the guerrillas themselves, in their beliefs and conduct, were mediums of political change, through which peasant communities could hear their future whispering. One former guerrilla explained how, on entering an area for the first time, he and his comrades were taken to see an elderly spirit medium.

"We told her, 'We are the children of Zimbabwe. We want to liberate Zimbabwe.' She was very interested. She knew much about the war and the regulation of the war. She said: 'This forest is very, very difficult for you to penetrate', but she gave us directions. She told us what kind of food to eat, which routes to take, what part of the forest we were not allowed to stay or sleep in, where we were not allowed to fight."

"She said we were forbidden to go with girls and she taught us how to interpret many signs in the forest which would allow us to live

in safety and to know when our enemy was near."

An old woman who is not what she appears to be: an injunction to chastity; a dark wood of endeavour with its coded sanctuaries and pitfalls; beyond the tangle of the forest, the object of the struggle: peace and a stable moral universe... This is the kind of material we expect to find in Chrétien de Troyes or Malory. In fact, the meeting took place in 1971. It was typical of the entente between the ancestors and the "children of Zimbabwe", shouldering rifles and convening popular committees in the bush.

In the cause of modern democracy — a theme which runs through Lan's new play — the ancient spirit mediums appear as instruments of virtue. Yet *Desire* does not invest religion with some primary goodness. Instead, it considers what can happen to religious belief when states and cultures are subjected to pressure — as they are in the course of aftermath of open conflict.

In *Desire* an old belief-system is called upon to solve a problem arising out of a modern liberation struggle. It succeeds, and acquires new meaning in the process. Yet the machinery of the resolution is

part of a deeply traditional cosmology, described by Lan in *Guns and Rain*.

"Ancestors", he tells us, "have no material form and so can be in all places at the same time... They can see and hear, they have emotions and desires. But they are never frivolous or mean. The welfare of their descendants is their sole concern. There is only one reason why they might make a descendant ill: to give a sign that they wish to possess her or him, to speak through her or his mouth to their descendants to warn that disaster is about to strike."

Rosemary's sickness, and the reason for it, may be specific, but the impending disaster is general, not only to the characters in the play, but to the fabric of a modern African state emerging from a bitter war. The play suggests that political disaster will befall a nation which fails to honour the aspirations of its freedom-fighters, and that cultural disaster will befall it if, in a changing world, the living fail to accommodate the voices of the dead. The remedy for Rosemary's sickness is only possible if memory overcomes neglect.

"Death is like a weir in a river," Lan writes of Shona cosmology.



David Lan: The play relates to his work as an ethnographer

"For a while the flow of life is held up. The current eddies round and round and streams back on itself as the process of dying and burial get underway. But then the weir gates are winched open and the flow of life continues, though now on a different level. Women and

men with their limited powers, their ignorance and weaknesses, have been transformed into ancestors..."

● *Desire* is previewing at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (071 359 4404) from tonight and opens on Monday.

Ambition mars the splendour of his scorn

THEATRE
Benedict NightingaleFashion
Tricycle

IT IS good to find this play belying its title with a revival three full years after the Royal Shakespeare Company first sent it splashing like vitriol over the footlights. Doug Lucie is perhaps the only young British dramatist with a truly distinctive voice; and in *Fashion* it is at its most splendidly scornful, bilious and charming.

Michael Pavelka's set, with its steel-grey walls and black furniture, makes an apt home for an ad agency with a client not exactly to Lucie's liking: the Conservative Party. Nor is he enraptured with

the men airbrushing its image. These include an ex-Labour MP turned television interviewer, played by the Tebbitt lookalike Robin Soans with an improbably slimy smirk, and a socialist filmmaker who needs the lolly, played by Jim Carter as a big, awkward bull steeling himself to life in a china shop.

However, Lucie moves beyond mere ire to a sort of grisly fascination when he comes to the agency's boss. He calls him Paul Cash, as dramatists of earlier eras named their less lovely characters John Brute or Lord Avarice. His main interest is coining success, never mind how. Indeed, he has a line in quotable candour: "Advertising is the revenge of business on culture," and "I tell lies for a living, for whoever pays me, to those who can't afford to pay me."

Yet as Paul Freeman plays him

— stealthy, watchful, yet subtly uneasy behind his feline mask — he is not just some scabrous caricature. He never goes home, wanders naked round his office at night, has an affair with the filmmaker's wife, and contemptuously gives his rent-boy a job, arguing that this job will toughen up the agency. There is frustration in the cynicism; dimly perceived pain and a hint of self-hatred, too.

Michael Attenborough, here a competent if uninspired director, might have encouraged Lucie to explore these contradictions further without compromising his play's savagery. As it is, he spreads his claws too wide. This is a play about image-making, image-makers. It is a revenge comedy, with businessman Cash relishing the sexual betrayal and political corruption of his old chum the film-director, and a subplot in

which an embryonic "leaderene" ruins a trad Tory. It also aspires to be a debate about divided Britain.

One problem is that, while references to poll tax riots, the Lawson abdication and changes in Romania have been added, Lucie's updating does not take adequate notice of the slump in Tory fortunes. The admen can, it seems, still push a Thatcher clone to electoral triumph. Worse, Lucie sometimes twists character to help his plot or make a point, never more embarrassingly than when he expects sympathy for the self-serving woman who suddenly, inspirationally cries, "Socialism hasn't failed Britain, it's never been tried."

Psychologically, dramatically, it is a phoney moment. Lucie is too scathing a satirist convincingly to be "positive". He is, if you like, the victim of his own strengths.

MARILYN KINGWILL

Reticence run riot

Jeremy Kingston

The Table of
the Two Horsemen
Greenwich

A PLAYWRIGHT who makes unspoken love the central issue of his play must weave a dense plot, or the drama will leak away through the gaps between his characters. The plot that Arthur Frewen contrives for his four lovers at the Rawalpindi Club in 1942 is all but threadbare, even though just one of them, puppyish Lieutenant Hart (13th Frontier Rifles) is the object of all the love going.

The daughter of a Deputy Commissioner speaks her love, though she does not speak it much, and weeps a lot, whereas grizzled Major Brind (19th Lancers) must grind his teeth and be content with dabbling some handy iodine on the Lieutenant's grazed knee. Hart's former prep school teacher Trepan, newly commissioned in the Poona Horse, has won through to firm control of his feelings, but cannot resist inviting the lad to recite the love-poem that won him a prize in happier days.

This is a ticklish moment in Christopher Renshaw's adequate production, for we should be able to tell from the way the poem is spoken that Hart can only simulate devotion. Despite his name, he has no heart. The tremor in Angus Pope's voice makes the

girl's heart flutter (the men, too, are stirred) but he signals no reason for breaking off when he does.

What is surprising is how little dramatic tension Frewen generates from his material. Rebecca Saire does point out, in one of her rare remarks about something other than Hart, that at Rawalpindi the pre-war life persists, though battles rage elsewhere. The anxious mutterings of the attentive *khitmatgar* (Rashid Karapiet), spoken in Urdu and obscure to most of us, neatly suggest the looming but still uncertain crisis of Partition.

Frewen restricts his focus, however, to the pains of hopeless love, and with Brind (Rupert Frazer) bleating on about his childhood — "I was a lonely boy" — and Trepan (John Moulder-Brown) carefully arranging his hands aroundously raising puzzled eyebrows, our interest in these two horsemen peters out.



Iodine, not intimacy: Rupert Frazer (right) tends Angus Pope

The incidental detail is better than this. The evocative background sounds (Mike Walker) of jacks, tennis match, dogs and distant train are sensitively introduced. The Rawalpindi lawn, too, looks ravishing, on a set by Liz da Costa cleverer than the play deserves, framing the basket chairs within festoons of creeper.

Frewen's peripheral dialogue is also firmer than his main story. Major Tilly, a cricket bore in love with nobody, cracks into life in Shaughan Seymour's brisk performance where the other characters can only dither at their creases and be clean bowled by the demon of love. Unfortunately, their dithering fills most of the innings.

Sit down and dance to Seventies' vibrations

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Roy Ayers
Ronnie Scott's

his recording career has had its leaner moments since then, he can always be relied on to find an audience with fond memories of disco-dancing to "Heat of the Beat".

For the next week and a half (until May 19) he will be playing at Ronnie Scott's. It is one of the most improbable bookings at the

club since Swingle Two sank without trace three years ago. Music as uncomplicated as this really works best in a dance venue or over a car stereo rather than in a sit-down club.

Nevertheless, Ayers is making the best of the circumstances. A relaxed performer with a creamy voice, he is always prepared to send up the "let's party" chants which form the core of most of his songs. Once the lyrics are out of the way, the group plays with power and cohesion, the saxophone and guitar solos slotting into place alongside Ayers' frenetic assaults.

Between numbers, he enjoys

giving a demonstration of his electronic instrument, whose computerized circuits allow him to imitate a Hammond organ, a flute or even a massed choir. One sound that the machine does not reproduce quite so well is that of the vibraphone itself, the tone is thinner and more brittle than usual.

A long medley, built around "Love Can Bring Us Back Together", brought the set to a suitably rousing conclusion. Anyone seeking a banquet of fusion music should visit the club next week, when the support slot is occupied by the jazz-rock group led by the trumpeter Ian Carr.

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ARTS

Wish-fulfilment is pretty simple

CINEMA

David Robinson

It is a week of Hollywood actors on show, in films that stand out for their performances. *Pretty Woman* (15, Warner West End, Cannon Haymarket) is an old story, out of *Cinderella* by Pygmalion, and so familiar that we can predict everything that will happen within the first 10 minutes, when a rich and handsome Prince Charming runs into a waitress-like young prostitute on Hollywood Boulevard.

He only wants to ask the way, but he is too good a trick to pass up so easily. He moves her into his ritzy penthouse, pays her to be his escort and transforms her with a new wardrobe.

There are no surprises in what happens: the interest depends on how well the actors show it happening. Richard Gere - reviewed last week in a very different role as the crazed killer cop in *Internal Affairs* - has resumed his screen career as a much more resourceful and sympathetic actor. He is also a skilful partner, using his cool aristocratic *savoir-faire* and well-mannered ruthlessness to set off Julia Roberts's naive *joie de vivre*.

Roberts is a revelation. Often looking unconvincingly like her brother Eric - a highly intelligent actor who has rarely been well used in films - she has something

of the looks of Nastassja Kinski or Isabella Rossellini, but more vitality and range than either. She convincingly makes the transformation from underclass hooker to society lady. Her face is always registering the rapid passage of feelings: her most magical scene is the tart's first experience of opera, and her instinctive, tearful response to (what else) *La traviata*.

The story is mostly set in a hotel of the opulent grandeur that only Hollywood can today provide. There are some quite nasty asides to demonstrate that in American society, clothes make - or brutally break - the woman; and some sharp portraits (Hector Elizondo and Larry Miller) of the snobishness of hotel staff and shop owners, who are obsequious or insulting, as occasion demands.

Meryl Streep, abandoning phoney foreign accents and soulful airs, is revealed as a spirited, if not very varied comedienne in *She-Devil* (15, Odeon Leicester Square).

The change to the title of Fay Weldon's novel *The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil* reflects the way it has been reduced to a one-

joke comedy. Streep plays the predatory millionaire hack writer of soft-core romantic novels. The she-devil is Roseanne Barr, a plump lady who looks like an unfortunate sister of Elizabeth Taylor, and affects an assortment of horrible facial moles.

When Streep makes off with her philandering accountant husband (Ed Begley Jr), Barr displays the full fury of a woman scorned. With solemn, demonic dedication, she strips him of all he cherishes: home, children, career and, finally, liberty.

There is a vestige of Fay Weldon's feminist purpose in the film's reflections on unfaithful husbands, rapacious women and the unfair premiums placed on female looks, but mostly it is reduced to camp caricature comedy: a style which the director, Susan Seidelman, at least sustains consistently in the performances and the fantasy setting of the romance queen's seaside palace.

A creeping monotony in the action and the central performances is relieved by one or two funny supporting roles: Sylvia Miles as Streep's barridial mother, weighing in with a cupboard full of skeletons; diminutive Linda Hunt as a fierce geriatric nurse; and A Martinez as a pouting gigolo house-boy.

Meryl Streep: Spirited millionaire writer in *She-Devil*Ruthless, but well-mannered: Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*

The handsome A Martinez (the "A" seems to be without a full-stop, the indefinite article rather than an initial) appears in a very different role to that of his gigolo in *She-Devil*, in *Power Highway* (15, Electric), a film of admirable intentions but rather uncertain execution. Scripted by Janet Heaney and Jean Stawarz from a novel by David Seals, it is a road film about present-day American Indians. A

Martinez plays a fiery activist opposing the efforts of a big mining company to cheat the tribespeople on a Cheyenne reservation out of their land.

The company and the federal police set out to silence him by framing his sister on a drugs charge, but he sets off to rescue her, taking to the road in a broken-down car in the company of a fat, simple-minded fellow-tribesman. Martinez and Gary Farmer are

likeable, and the film scores some effective points from the contrast of Martinez's modern Indian battling against the Third World conditions to which his people are condemned in modern America, and his romantic companion dreaming of bringing back the heroic days and the ghosts of old gods and warriors.

There is a sense, though, that a lot of the script has been mislaid somewhere *en route*, for some

characters and incidents are inadequately explained. At the end, the mood switches disconcertingly, and perhaps desperately, from realism to extravagant action farce. The director is Jonathan Wacks, producer of *Repo Man*.

Walter Hill's Johnny Handsome (15, Prince Charles), adapted from a thriller by John Godey, provides a well-fitting part for Mickey Rourke's style of subdued show-off. Johnny is a criminal and not at

all handsome: at the start of the film the make-up department has transformed him into an Elephant Man lookalike, with speech impaired by a cleft palate and hare-lip. He is imprisoned for armed robbery, and his cause is taken up by a surgeon, who transforms him into Mickey Rourke.

The writers of film publicity slogans sometimes display admirable skill in catching the essence of a story. The posters for

this one say: "They changed his future - could they change his past?" It is a classic fatalistic *film noir* plot, with the urge for revenge irresistibly dragging the criminal-hero back to his past, despite the appearance of good angels.

The stock story is well suited to Walter Hill's special brand of neon-bued *film noir* pastiche and his choice of actors (Rourke, Ellen Barkin, Morgan Freeman, Lance Henriksen).

There are no surprises in A *Nightmare on Elm Street 5 - The Dream Child* (15, Cannon Haymarket). The special effects are better than ever, and often imaginative in design; but the price of watching still further manifestations of the awful Freddy Krueger, and disentangling the dreams of the pretty youngsters of Elm Street is too high a price to pay for them. The director is Stephen Hopkins.

Jingoism's galaxy of junk

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

THE British have always been at their best in excavations and museums, and television from Sir Mortimer Wheeler onward was quick to realize the potential for creating archaeological and curatorial superstars.

Last night's schedules seemed unusually full of frustrated curators on the rampage. While for *An Architectural Alphabet of Britain* (BBC 2) Lucy Lambton excavated a now-defunct watch and clock shop in Leeds, Tariq Ali's *Rear Window* (Channel 4), an uneven replacement for *Signs*, gave itself over to an entire programme about the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford.

The Pitt-Rivers is, in many ways, the perfect British museum. It is nearly impossible to find, being situated within another university museum and then closed for 22 hours every weekday and all day Sunday. Once you have found it open, the Pitt-Rivers turns out to be a kind of geographical junk shop, assembled by a Victorian colonialist general.

Castanets made of nuts, musical flutes, shrunken heads, and the statue of a man with an octopus on his head and two fish down his trousers, were all lovingly removed from their natural overseas habitats and taken to Oxford a century or so ago. This was in anticipation of the day when Sir David Attenborough and Barry Cunliffe would stand around enthusing about Australian Aboriginal baby-carriers and Tahitian wooden head-rests, apparently carved for unusually small heads.

One black schoolgirl managed to get the word "Kaffir" crossed off the general's old labels, on the grounds that it is insulting, though not perhaps as insulting as his requirement that all exhibit definitions should be kept brief because the working classes did not have much interest in reading.

The truth, as Penelope Lively noted, is that the Pitt-Rivers is not so much a museum as an attic, full of old family treasures which nobody really wants but somehow ought not to be thrown away.

Hoarding for patriotic reasons has also always been a curiously British obsession, as is the passion for turning unwanted household implements into something even more useless. Denied, since the ending of the Second World War, the opportunity of sending our old milk bottle-tops off in the post for recycling into aircraft carriers, we now carry large numbers of old empty bottles around the country in a perpetual search for something useful to do with them.

Dispatches, on Channel 4 last night, followed a Brighton housewife desperate to sort, squash, and otherwise rearrange her household rubbish as per Chris Patten's instructions at the last Tory Party Conference, where we were told to recycle at least half our waste. It soon became apparent that Patten himself is not exactly eager to receive several hundred thousand tin-cans at his office address. Perhaps we could send them to the Pitt-Rivers Museum, instead.

Ad men subtract from movie magic

Glossy advertising styles are taking the place of true cinematic values, says Geoff Brown

One aspect overlooked by *Washes White*, the BBC's fascinating, if exhausting, survey of British television advertising, was the contribution of the commercials-director. Watching the series, a viewer from Mars might suppose that these 30-second hymns to consumer culture were entirely the work of the advertising executives.

Not so: over the years, an army of grown men has earned a living consolidating the package of images, emotions and slogans designed to implant in our unconscious the burning desire to buy, buy, buy.

There is a specialized trade, with distinguished British antecedents - think of the pre-war achievements of the GPO Film Unit, the posters for London Transport and Shell, and other examples of enlightened commercial art - but it can also be a dangerous one, particularly if practised to excess. There is more to life than consumer goods, and there is a danger when directors leap from the 30-second commercial designed to sell a product to the 100-minute feature designed to tell a story. When we see a film by Alan Parker or Adrian Lyne on television, can we be certain where it ends and the commercials begin?

Prominent cinema names have lent their skills to the small screen's commercials ever since Gibbs SR toothpaste got the genre rolling on the opening night of independent television in September 1955. Ken Russell flexed his muscles on *Black Magic* chocolate. John Schlesinger spent the *Swinging Sixties* championing *Stork*. Polo mints and Eno's liver salts. Joseph Losey leavened his earnest endeavours with a little *Ryvita* and *Horlicks*, while Lindsay Anderson's portfolio embraced Kellogg's cornflakes, Guinness Ewbank carpet sweeper and Iron Jellies.

Full, and focused

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Flavio
Salle Garnier,
Monte Carlo

IMAGINE the story of Romeo and Juliet, with its entire parental dossier tangled tiresomely into one of the more tedious episodes in the ancient history of the kings of Lombardy. That is Handel's *Flavio*, most irrational of all irrational entertainments, and currently and improbably, top of the French classical charts. In the still more improbable setting of Monte Carlo's Casino-opera House, it became clear why.

René Jacobs, who conducts both in Monaco and on disc,



Sixties advertising: Selling a product on the aura it bestows, rather than on price and function

For such directors, commercials paid the bills in between worthier work in features, television or the theatre. Students considering the stylistic relationship between Anderson's Ewbank work and *If...* would be bashing their heads against a brick wall.

Far better for them to study the influence on the cinema of Alan Parker's Bird's Eye beerbottle saga, Hugh Hudson's *Fat Strada* blockbuster of 1979, or the *Hovis* chorales of Ridley Scott. For these younger directors, the advertising companies provided their chief livelihood. The skills they developed were shaped by the rigorous demands of their trade; once they began crossing over into features in the mid-Seventies, they had, for a time, no other skills to offer.

Commercials trained them to a high degree of technical sophistication. They could perform virtuoso tricks with camera lighting; they could cut their strips of celluloid into fiendishly ingenious patterns; and they knew the secrets of audience manipulation, of leading us up the garden path by the artful use of social stereotypes, visual symbols and emotional stimuli. They knew all the ways to make an immediate visual impact, preventing the viewer losing interest.

They were also masters of

atmospherics, spinning dreams and conjuring lifestyles with clothes, decor and accoutrements. For as David Puttnam - himself an important alumnus of commercials - observed during *Washes White*, it was only in the early days that advertisements tried selling products by stressing their precise function and price. From the early Sixties onwards, products have been mostly sold on the aura they bestow, whether sexual satisfaction (Cadbury's Milk Flake) or financial snobbery (American Express - "That'll do nicely").

Feature films, however, have traditionally required skills other than technical wizardry and a slick ability to crystallize mass aspirations. They need, for instance, a knack for developing characters, sustaining a long-term narrative or depicting events in subtle shades, not stark comic-strip contrasts. Such things are not in a commercials-director's blood. They think in short, sharp bursts, and over-play their stylistic hands.

Perhaps it was Alan Parker's *Midnight Express*, in 1978, that first showed the perils of a commercials-director larding his scenes with bawling dramatics and meretricious images (in this case shafts of sunlight slanting through the dank Turkish prison,

prettily catching the mould on the walls) with scant regard for suitability or overall effect.

Since then, the glossy, high-pitched advertising style has consolidated its position in entertainment cinema. Hugh Hudson's films grasp at the epic form but consistently crumble into advert-like cameos and fragments: the slow-motion runners of *Chariots of Fire* might have strayed from some commercial for sportswear. Ridley Scott has made a Hollywood career out of hi-tech gloss hiding hollow material, while Adrian Lyne has carved a dubious niche selling sexual fears in *9½ Weeks* and *Fatal Attraction*.

Directors can mature, of course, and cast off old habits. But the worry for cinema is that none of the most prolific breeding grounds for tomorrow's feature directors (the music video industry is another) is equipped to develop the appropriate sensibility. Some of the best film passages ever made simply show two people quietly talking. But quiet talk is out of fashion among film-makers and audiences, who respond better to noise, frenzied optical effects and jazzy editing, and whose sole knowledge of cinema's past derives from those vintage black-and-white clips mischievously used to advertise lager.

It was Derek Ragin who sang the role originally written for Handel's notorious castrato, Senesino. The dancing brilliance of his love music and the tortured ambivalence expressed in every vocal nuance were a reminder that Britain far too seldom hears this most witty counter-tenor.

Lena Lootens, as Emilia, illuminated the evening's great Handelian Largo and much more beside; Jeffrey Gall brought a plummy counter-tenor to the pompous King Flavio himself; Gloria Banditelli, as his beloved Teodora, was a true contralto, loved by Christina Hogman's mezzo-lit *travesti* Vitige.

Lute, harpsichord and violone robustly sculpted each recitative, while the Orchestra Concerto Köln caressed, teased and fought its way through love, intrigue and murder (the latter with a few bars' help from the pea of Jacobs himself). As one of the most entirely satisfying Handel productions of the past half century, this *Flavio* deserves to be as widely seen as it may now be heard.



Lena Lootens sings Emilia

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

THE ABYSS (CBS/Fox, 15): The most elaborate of last year's crop of undersea yarns; handsomely managed nonsense about extra-terrestrials bewildering divers on the ocean floor, from *Terminator* director James Cameron. 1989.

EIGHT MEN OUT (Virgin, 15): John Sayles' thoughtful but strangely lacklustre drama about the infamous sporting scandal of 1919, when the Chicago White Sox were bribed to lose the baseball series. A busy cast includes Charlie Sheen, John Cusack, and Sayles himself as Ring Lardner. 1989.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (Pickwick, PG): David Lean's Dickens adaptation, traversing a vast social panorama, from misty Thames marshes to Miss Havisham's decaying mansion. A bewitching cast: John Mills as Pip, Alec Guinness making his film debut as Herbert Pocket. 1946.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (Pickwick, U): Thoroughly theatrical but delicious version of Wilde's play, festooned with plush Victorian. The queen of the show is Edith Evans' Lady Bracknell. 1952.

NEW YORK STORIES (Buena Vista, 15): Uneven trilogy from three major directors: abrasive drama from Martin Scorsese; footling whimsey from Francis Coppola; delicious laughter from Woody Allen. 1989.

SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE (Virgin, 18): Last year's American discovery - a deliciously poised study of human deception and sexual frustrations from newcomer Steven Soderbergh. 1989.

HEAVEN (20:20 Vision, 15): The 12th-century romance of Abelard and Heloise, decked in the bland panoply of a television costume drama. Derek de Lint and Kim Thomson battle against a script without punch or spice. 1989.

THIS SPORTING LIFE (Pickwick, U): Lindsay Anderson's powerful film of David Storey's novel primarily concerns the cruel pains of love and success. Fierce acting from Richard Harris in the days when he was still malleable. 1963.

TWISTER (Vestron, 15): Unrewarding American oddity which bypassed British cinemas, featuring Harry Dean Stanton as the laid-back head of a crazy family airing their eccentricities in the teeth of a hurricane. A first film for writer-director Michael Amersyda. 1989.

WIRED (Entertainment in Video, 18): Cockeyed biography of self-destructive comedian John Belushi (ably impersonated by newcomer Michael Chiklis). 1989.

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HEALTH

Hidden hazards in the calendar of the oyster eater

ASKED if modern oyster farming made it safe to eat an oyster when there wasn't an "r" in the month, David Fitzsimons, director of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, replied: "In general it is still a good adage, but even so I don't look at the calendar when I'm offered oysters, but rely upon my hostess and the public health service to make certain that they have come from an uncontaminated source."

A quick glance at the statistics on the outbreaks of food poisoning due to shellfish — most are traced back to oysters — shows that the greater the likelihood of a year having a good claret vintage, so also is there a greater chance that it will be a bad year for oyster poisoning. For both grapes and water-borne infections flourish in a hot summer. The number of outbreaks in Britain every year varies between two and 15 and averages around nine, usually striking groups of people. In Australia, it seems that the climatic conditions needed for an outbreak are different. This year, which has been abnormally wet, oyster lovers in Sydney have had to contend with more shellfish poisoning than in any year since 1978.

Australian health experts blame the dilution of the salt in the river by upstream flood waters, which have also washed in more pollution than usual. Oysters are filter-feeders: in the combined process of breathing and feeding, an active oyster filters many gallons of water a day through its gills. In cold weather, an oyster almost hibernates: in hot weather its activity increases and more water is filtered. And, also because of the warm weather, it is more likely to be contaminated by viruses and bacteria. In the filtering

process, particles of food as well as pathogenic organisms are caught on the sticky under-surface of the gills, from where they can be swept into the funnel-shaped mouth and passed through the oyster's stomach and guts before being ejected some hours after entering the shell. The bacteria are discharged with other undigested debris, but viruses remain in the oyster's flesh.

After being collected, oysters are subjected to a purification process known to health workers as depuration, and to oyster fishermen as plumping or laying out. The procedure involves keeping the oyster, for a time, in clean water, where it will flush out any bacteria which might have been lurking in its digestive system. It is a comparatively efficient way of eliminating bacteria, but not viruses, including the enteric viruses and hepatitis A, which are now responsible for more oyster food poisoning than typhoid, paratyphoid and other bacteria.

Another expert was not as trusting as Dr Fitzsimons. Conscious of the bacteria he can see down his microscope and the viruses he cannot, he said: "Eat oysters? I wouldn't dream of it, not at any time of the year, regardless of the month. Even when shellfish are cooked they're not always cooked for long enough to kill harmful organisms." But, while he may have saved himself from food poisoning, he has missed out on valuable nutrients. Oysters contain vitamin A, B and C, and are particularly rich in B. Portion for portion they provide more iron and copper than liver, so it is not surprising that in Victorian times, when they were cheap, oysters were a valuable part of the working man's diet.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford



Virgin territory

As the furore after the recent butchers' dinner has demonstrated, John Selwyn Gummer, chairman and Agriculture Minister, has the art of expressing a view succinctly, not so long ago he attacked the premise of the Bishop of Durham that there could be a state of symbolic virginity by suggesting that the bishop's argument would not have found favour with the mothers of any daughters he knew.

Last week, the High Court judge who awarded £20,000 slander damages to a woman whose husband had implied that she had lost her virginity before her wedding night evidently saw virginity,

and its diagnosis, in the same clear-cut way as the minister does.

In pre-Second World War days, when the emphasis on the need for pre-nuptial virginity was more widespread, a textbook of forensic medicine listed the "tell-tale signs" which the astute doctor should note as the clues to a woman's past sexual experience.

The doctor was advised not merely to examine the genital region, but also to study the woman's general demeanour. For the author felt, like the hostess in one of Evelyn Waugh's novels, that the loss of virginity altered a patient's deportment. If all else failed, examination of the breasts might provide the answers, for they were supposed to

change in shape, and the nipples in colour, after sexual experience as well as child bearing.

Contemporary gynaecology textbooks were already teaching that these signs were nonsense and that even after a gynaecological examination it is usually impossible to be certain if a woman is a virgin. The cardinal sign of the presence or absence of a hymen, a thin perforated membrane which occludes the vaginal entrance, but experience shows that this membrane, when present, is in all shapes and sizes and may even be virtually absent; consequently, the best a doctor can usually say is "probably is" or "probably isn't".

Despite medical doubts, the hymen is still regarded in many cultures as being of such value that young, rich brides who have a deficient one, for whatever reason, come to London to make good their loss. In the Harley Street area, there are several doctors who are skilled in the plastic surgery needed. The operation is not cheap — it will probably cost about £1,000 — and requires a general anaesthetic.

One surgeon who has made a mini-specialty of the subject said that he had achieved such beautiful results that they would deceive the most worldly husband. He feels that if any defect is so important to a patient that it can upset her enjoyment of life, it is a doctor's duty to try to correct it.

Patients' and doctors' views on what constitutes virginity often vary, to the point where diagnosis can become confused. Often, the patient's belief could be described as symbolic virginity, for some feel that as long as a

condom is worn virginity is not lost, and others resort to practices which they feel are still compatible with virginity but which would surprise the bishop and amaze their mothers.

Going for the throat

An opera audience can be lavish with its praise, but when disapproving is savage and makes no allowances. Last Monday the audience booed and jeered when Walter Donati's voice failed in his Covent Garden debut. He struggled through *Il Trovatore*, but — possibly wisely — avoided the curtain call.

Laryngitis, a minor inflammation of the laryngeal chords and surrounding tissue, is usually due to infection, either viral or bacterial, an allergy or even an exposure to irritant dust, pollen or tobacco smoke. But in Mr Donati's case, the cause was probably a "first-case", for although he is a mature singer, he was not only making his first appearance at Covent Garden but also standing in for another tenor. A first-night throat is usually no more than a dry larynx caused by anxiety inducing changes in catecholamine levels; it produces a sensation familiar to anyone who has experienced fear. It is possible that such was Mr Donati's enthusiasm to do well that he over-trained — excessive use of the voice can also induce temporary laryngitis — but the probability is that, if there was no infection, initially he was suffering from a first-night throat and that by continuing to sing he reduced his throat to a condition where it was described as "red raw, and bloody". A decision will be taken later on whether he will sing tomorrow night.

BREATHING SPACE: GEORGE MELLY

I work as if I'm a workaholic, but I don't seek the work out — it seeks me out. I tend to eat too much, with intermittent dieting. My tastes are changing as I get older (he is 63) in that I prefer simpler food — but simpler food on a rather high level, like grouse and oysters. I'm not very interested in elaborate food that comes in sauces. Given half a chance, I'm also extremely fond of working man's coddle — bacon, black pudding, fried eggs, baked beans, cups of strong hot tea.

When I diet (which I'm doing successfully at the moment — I've lost a stone) I simply try to cut back. I eat things that don't please or interest me at all, like salads without dressing, for a bit, until the scales look bearable, then I put it all on again.

I diet mainly because of vanity, but I don't like panting going up a flight of stairs, and I don't like finding it difficult to do up my shoes. My aim is to keep my weight down to 12 stone 7 pounds, which is still too fat. I take it off very quickly once I start. I don't have a sweet tooth; the



'In the evening I have gin, wine and probably a couple of brandies, which for me is practically being teetotal'

temptation is more spaghetti, bread, potatoes, fried things. I'm very fond of alcohol, but I drink a minute amount compared with what I did at one period in my life, when I drank at least a bottle of brandy a night plus gins and things during the day. Now I'll have a dry sherry around noon, maybe a glass of wine at lunch and then in the evening I'll have two or three gin and tonics and half a bottle of wine and probably a couple of brandies, which for me is practically being teetotal.

I never exercise. I hate it. I've loathed it since I was a child. I'll walk from A to B if it's not too far, and I fly-fish a

lot. To those who don't know about fishing it may seem that you just sit. But you do not: you walk, you wade, you travel several miles a day, and also there's a lot of activity in the arms and shoulder muscles. But that is my only form of exercise.

Up until about six months ago I was smoking about 80 cigarettes a day and then I began to have some difficulty with breathing, so I've stopped, more or less, with occasional lapses late at night, and the odd cigar when it all becomes unbearable.

My loss of hearing happened gradually, probably due to being exposed to loud

noises for most of my life, although it didn't happen until I was 50, not 25, like rock people. Not everyone becomes deaf from noise, but I must have had some inherent condition. It's not too bad because I wear a hearing aid, but I have problems with high notes and consonants so sometimes I'll answer a question in a nonsensical, mad way. For example, I'll hear: "Is your smile comfortable?" instead of "Who's the chief constable?"

I don't feel heat or cold much. I can wear a thick suit on the hottest day and I'm fine on the coldest day without a suit and I've always had perfect blood pressure. Knowing a bit about my lifestyle, the doctor is always surprised that it is boringly, classically correct when I have a check-up. I had very bad pneumonia three years ago and nearly died of flu as a child, and there was a burst ulcer in the early Sixties. No repetition of same, didn't need operating on, didn't need a blood transfusion — I'm quite tough, physically.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

Scars that outlive the memory of a mauling

Dog attacks on children pose terrible problems for doctor and victim, writes Lee Rodwell

Four-year-old Caroline Williams — who needed 200 stitches in her face after an attack by a Rotweiler and an alsatian — has gone home from hospital and appears to be well on the way to recovery at her home in Dudley, West Midlands.

Some children are not so lucky. Each year, thousands of children are taken to accident and emergency units for treatment after having been bitten by dogs. Many of the injuries are relatively minor, but what happened to Caroline — and 23-month-old Ryan Bedwell of Reading, Berkshire, who was bitten in the face on Tuesday by a Jack Russell terrier — is no isolated incident. A spate of dog attacks in the past year has resulted in severe injury and even death.

Doctors know that dog bites pose particular problems for child victims. David Sharpe, consultant plastic surgeon at St Luke's Hospital in Bradford, says: "Dog bites are often quite deep, so they can cause pockmarks. Skin and muscle are usually loosely separated, but when scarring forms between them, as it may with dog bites, the skin can become tethered to the muscle beneath."

Apart from the puncture marks caused by a dog's teeth, there is likely to be further damage caused by the child trying to pull away. Mr Sharpe says: "Wedges of tissue may be torn out. Normally, you would rebuild these areas using the original components. You try to use local tissue because of the colour match. Skin grafts are occasionally necessary, but they are not as satisfactory and produce a red and unattractive scar."

One of the problems with dog bites on a child's face is that pieces may have been torn out of the nose, lips or eyelids. This is highly specialized tissue and is difficult to rebuild. If half the upper lip is ripped away, the only way to repair it is to use part of the lower lip.

Plastic surgeons are aware that the way we look is more than a matter of vanity. "The two key areas where people notice deformities are the eyes and the lips because that is how we signal socially," Mr Sharpe says. "When you are operating you have to be aware that a millimetre out in alignment around eyelids and mouth can be immediately obvious. There have been times when I have deliberately built in a slight smile."

A child who is savaged by a dog is likely to be treated in two stages. Oliver Fenton, consultant plastic surgeon at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, says: "A dog bite causes a relatively blunt injury, so there will be damaged and dead tissue around the edges of the wound. This is a good medium for bacteria [although a dog's bite is not nearly as bad as a human's in terms of the risk of infection]. So, initially, the wounds need to be cleaned. A plastic surgeon would normally make the wound slightly



Recovering: Caroline Williams, aged four, leaves hospital with her mother Denise

bigger in order to remove any bacteria and dead tissue and to get sharper, straighter edges which tend to give better primary healing when sutured together.

"Doing this may also give you the opportunity to choose the direction the scar will go in. The body is made up of relaxed skin tension lines. Scars placed within these will heal well; scars which cross them at right angles will heal badly."

After this, Mr Fenton says, it is a case of "wait and see". "There are two types of scars,

hospital, it may be possible to do a definitive repair then. There have been advances — suture material has improved, and magnification techniques offer better alignment.

There is no guarantee every victim of a dog attack will be treated by a plastic surgeon. How important is this? Mr Fenton says: "If a child of mine was badly bitten by a dog, I would prefer the case to be dealt with by someone experienced in the management of soft tissue trauma. If the child has been severely bitten on the

ing them less conspicuous. For example, a scar which runs across a cheek may be broken up so the patient is left with a scar that drops into a natural mark, such as the line which runs from the nose to the edge of the mouth.

The fact that the young heal faster than the old is not necessarily an advantage. Mr Fenton says: "The young also lay down a lot of scar tissue, which means their scars are more noticeable. On older people the skin is looser — you can throw more away. On a five-year-old's face there is nothing to spare."

A child may also carry psychological scars. Eileen Bradbury is the only full-time clinical counsellor in plastic surgery in Britain. She assesses and counsels children and their parents in the Leeds and Bradford areas.

She says that in the period immediately after a dog attack a child will usually look back at what happened through nightmares and flashbacks, while the parents will worry about the future.

"To the time after the injury children need a lot of help. What I do depends on their age and their needs in terms of social skills. I use a video quite extensively. Children need to see how others see them. A child who looks different feels different and may become vulnerable or anxious. Appearance is very important in our society, and children are as likely as adults to judge by appearances. There are times when it matters more: when children enter school, from eight to 10 years, when they start moving away from their family and towards their peers, and in early adolescence."

Ultimately, it seems, it is not the severity of scarring which is of paramount importance, but the child's self-consciousness about it. Some children get upset about minor scarring, others can cope with major scarring — it depends on their personality and the reactions of other people.



Caroline after the attack

'There is a phrase in plastic surgery — never do today what you can honourably put off until tomorrow'

face, it should be treated by a plastic surgeon."

He says that if no plastic surgeon is immediately available, the child should be given a tetanus injection and antibiotics. Soft tissue damage can be left untreated for up to 24 hours without risking further deterioration.

Even with the most skilled surgeon in the world, however, it is likely that if a child has been badly marked in the attack, he or she will be left with noticeable scars. How much can plastic surgery do later on?

"There are a lot of misconceptions about plastic surgery," Mr Fenton says. "We cannot do a lot of things the public thinks we can. It is not uncommon to have a patient say, at the end of a long reconstructive period: 'I can always have plastic surgery, can't I?'"

The plastic surgeon can try to disguise scars, either by altering the direction in which they run or by breaking them up, mak-

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THE BLOCKBUSTING NOVEL BY Susan Crossland

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FICTION

The finer points of disembowelling

Anne McElvoy surveys a febrile, Fifties Berlin complete with spies, love and unspeakable act

A mild scent of mothballs hangs inevitably over a novel which ends with the protagonist imagining a valedictory clamour on to the rickety platform at the Potsdamer Platz to gaze at the Berlin Wall "before it was all torn down". But, set as it is in the febrile Berlin of the 1950s, this one has the advantage of having been conceived as a period piece when it was written. Today's readers, however, have the telegraphic sensation of an extra layer of time between themselves and the story.

With the linguistic twists of an un-inspired travel writer McEwan insists on letting us know that he has been to Berlin. Food is rendered doggedly in German, street names catalogued with painful exactitude and hyperactive Germanisms pop up with disconcerting randomness in the flow of prose.

These devices, as a writer with McEwan's feeling for the ordinary must surely have realized, do not alone supply the atmosphere of a place — especially not Berlin.

Based on a miscellany Anglo-American operation to build a tunnel under the Soviet sector, the novel particularizes the inequality of the Allies' relationship in the treacherous aftermath of war, when it is deprived of the cohesive power of a common enemy. The Russians, by contrast, are sketched as an almost mythical presence, an unseen enemy vulnerable only to the bloodless attacks of decoding equipment. The front-line soldiers are now engineers, like the hapless Leonard, disgorged from his Dollis Hill lair to fight battles of bleeps and numbers. Throughout runs Churchill's prediction of "the shadows of victory", of Britain, emerged poor and proud from one conflict, to be caught between the two super-powers at the beginning of the next.

Few writers have McEwan's ability to evoke the agony of the awkward Brit, whose inferiorities are mirrored by his place in the larger world of fast-talking, swaggering Americans who are calling the shots. Leonard's relationship with

Maria, dogged by the vestiges of the war, is uncompromisingly dissected, but lacks the clarity of perception of previous McEwan duos which the magnifying glass rendered uncomfortably but realistically large. Here the lens mist up as the two sway a touch drunkenly between credibility and authorial convenience.

Ultimately to blame is the uneasy confusion of genre: as a spy novel it is flaccid because the author is too interested in the sexual and social motivations of his characters to be able to build up the concentrated intellectual spin required for a powerful disengagement. Even when the baddie is revealed — and there are not that many characters to choose from — it is hard to care.

Squatting darkly at the centre of the narrative is a dreadful deed, a disconcertingly itemized exposition of the evil of which love is capable, although I found it difficult to silence the trivializing gremelin who

whispered that it was inevitable that McEwan should discover the finer points of disembowelling some time in his writing career. His previous strength in conveying the compulsion of motiveless action does not survive once a motive is at hand, however, an insufficient reason for an unspeakable act seems curiously less credible than none at all.

Flashes of satiric humour come as a welcome relief. The frantic mongrel snuffing at a suitcase full of human remains watched fondly by its mistress — "one of those owners who does not like to cross their pets" — is a cameo of street life in a city where elderly ladies really do treat their dogs more politely than their fellow humans.

Inspired nuggets like this and a sense of time, if not place, rescue an uneven enterprise. It is not the best of McEwan's work, still less powerful enough to fix the place of the old Berlin in our new cultural consciousness, but he is the only writer I know who can make one combine an "ugh" and a giggle out loud while pausing to gather strength for his next onslaught of language and imagery.

THE INNOCENT
By Ian McEwan
Cape, £12.95



GLYNN BOYD HART

Violence, veiled by ritual

Nicola Murphy

AMONGST WOMEN
By John McGahern
Faber, £11.99

At the centre of *Amongst Women* is Michael Moran, an ex-republican captain turned farmer, living with his second wife, Rose, three daughters and youngest son. Instead of glorious tales of destruction of the Black and Tans, McGahern finds drama in the particularities of daily life. Through focus on exactly how and when the family laid the table, put on the kettle and told the rosary, McGahern produces a novel of extreme tension and hypnotic power. Comparisons with Chekhov once more are apt.

McGahern builds up an atmosphere of intense claustrophobia, through the family's ritualistic actions. In the manner of Beckett he describes the underlying violence and desperation that the rituals seek to sanctify with a spare style, pared of all flowery verbiage and excessive description. He creates a repressive home dominated by Moran, an embittered, brooding man, and tyrannical father and husband, who now scorns the IRA and those for whose freedom he once fought.

Moran seeks perfection not in the state but in the family. It is only in a stable and united home life that Moran finds security and happiness. Any signs of individuality are crushed: university is forbidden fruit for his scholarship-level daughter and all self-expression is frowned upon. Moran uses "Catholicism" and "family" to demand obedience. At any challenge to his authority he orders a telling of the rosary, a stint in the fields or a kiss. He does not know how to show love. He only understands possession.

In turn his wife and children both love and hate him. All the children work desperately to escape through jobs, marriage and even exile. They want to be as far away as possible. Or so they think. All four are drawn back. Their escapes are as much of a ritual as the inevitable return: family is in their blood.

Only Luke the eldest can contemplate the final break and the ultimate betrayal — to become more English than the English. But with freedom he loses all the real strength that is also part and parcel of Moran family life. At their father's funeral with which the book closes, it is not Luke but the women who walk away as leaders, as Moran's heirs.

In a mere 184 pages, McGahern fuses past and present, repression and individuality, aspiration and conflict in a seamless narrative of extraordinary tension and effect. *Amongst Women* is much more than a good book, it is an overwhelming experience.

AUTHORS

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Past imperfect, present tense

Jasper Rees

LAST LOVES

By Alan Sillitoe

Grafton, £12.95

THE GARDENER

By David Pownall

Gollancz, £13.95

THEN AGAIN

By Jenni Diski

Bloomsbury, £13.99

THE STRAWBERRY JAM DIVORCE

By Myrna Greenberg

Allison & Busby, £11.95

meanings of their pettiest thoughts, words and deeds. David Pownall, on the other hand, has somewhat too much confidence in the extraordinariness of his characters. For all its neatly carved symmetries and symbols, the impression one extracts from *The Gardener* is that his dramatic personae are merely inexplicable, and certainly less real than the lovingly detailed north English landscape they inhabit. Two ba-

bies born in a Yorkshire village parish are baptised by a free-thinking priest. They grow up apart, but when their fathers die the priest appoints himself surrogate parent. He encourages his two charges to meet, fall in love, and play out the role of God's beautiful elect which he assigns to them. The budding of symbiotic passion is done very well, but when the lovers go to different universities things go wrong, both with their love and with the narrative. Pauline's mad mother commits suicide, Pauline herself marries a rich arms dealer and Eric flunks his degree to work as a gardener on the newly-weds' Surrey estate. Pownall keeps the reader posted on what is going through his characters' minds with an almost evangelical zeal to inform, but even he often finds himself strapped for an explanation of their preposterous antics.

Being a study of schizophrenia, it is uncertain how many main characters there actually are in Jenni Diski's ambitious fourth novel, *Then Again*. Is it two, or four, or three? There is Esther,

separated 40-year-old and mother of one, and her atavistic alter ego, a troubled 14-year-old called Elizabeth, who visits her in her dreams. Then there is Esther's daughter Katya, also 14, and Katya's unnamed interior voice, which persuades her she has been visited by God. When Katya goes missing, presumed chemically unbalanced, Esther continues to paint crockery for a living and canoodle with her psychoanalyst boyfriend, while a memory of a forgotten past before she was adopted by her parents, linked to her worries for Katya, begins to stampede unaccountably through her subconscious. This all sounds tortuous and confusing, which is perhaps partly the effect intended, but out of the psychological duplicity of her characters Diski constructs an intriguing web of interlocked narratives.

The Strawberry Jam Divorce, a first novel by Myrna Greenberg, is also about mental self-torture, but filtered through a teenager's naive first-person voice, it is more disposed to lather anguish in humour. Kevin tells his own story, in which he discovers his mother in bed with a fat man, watches his father baroque her and then escapes into the night to avoid witnessing the family self-combust. The narrative's charm resides largely in the laxative flow of Greenberg's punctuation-shy, digressive, confessional style.

Wrong goodbye

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

POODLE SPRINGS

By Raymond Chandler & Robert B. Parker

Macdonald, £12.95

local casino a hundred grand; the man also turns out to be a photographer of pornography, a bigamist and, soon, a murder suspect.

Marlowe's investigations bring him into that familiar Chandlerian low-life territory populated by cynical cops, hoodlums and their puppet masters, bar-tenders and regretful women with a past to hide. Everywhere, he is confronted by his matrimonial attachment, patronized in his new milieu, no longer taken seriously in his old. But there are no mean streets in Poodle Springs, and Marlowe's forays into Los Angeles are insipid echoes of past visits.

Occasionally, a snatch of description or dialogue evokes old atmospheres; but there are not many reminders that Chandler, *in form*, was one of America's great novelists, nor that Parker, *in form*, is one of the most sparkling crime novelists around today. Worst of all, action is made subordinate to the War Of The Marlowes.

The *Playback* warnings have come true. Linda nags Philip incessantly to dip into her fortune; he explains tediously often that his Code forbids such spousal sponging. All this does not help the marriage, and, I fear, the reader may not care much anyway. In the end, the once noble Marlowe is in danger of becoming a middle-aged, sulking bore.

The two bluff sexagenarian coves in Alan Sillitoe's moving *Last Loves* speak the blunt patois of the bourgeoisie and lead the (almost) blameless lives of unremarkable middle-class citizens, and yet they run into terrible trouble. For his 60th birthday, Bernard's wife sends him and his old mucker George down memory lane to Malaysia, where 40 years earlier, when it was still known as Malaya, they fought the communists in the jungle. As in the way with journeys in novels, they find out more about themselves and each other in these few days than for all their seniority in years, they have gleaned from life hitherto. George, introspective and unhappily divorced, falls in love with a sensitive spinster called Gloria who is also searching for a route back into her own history, while rowdy Bernard boasts natters on about his extramarital affairs until he receives some bad marital news from home. When the two veterans, after wassailing their way round the country's much altered cities and beaches, finally escort Gloria on a recess into the jungle, it is not the self-contained past that they confront but the unforgiving, danger-strewn, unquantifiable present.

These dedicatedly ordinary characters would scarcely count as involving were it not for Sillitoe's hawk-eyed ability to tease out the

The Constantine nobody knew

Peter Jones

EMPEROR

By Colin Thubron

Heinemann, £12.95

The life of Constantine the Great is plunged in historical obscurity. What, then, are art and empathy for? Thubron's wonderfully entertaining novel imaginatively re-creates for us that mysterious period leading up to Constantine's conversion to Christianity.

It is the year 338AD. Constantine is dead, but his tutor has discovered a cache of documents relating to the year 312AD when Constantine, moving against Rome and its tyrant emperor Maximian, was "converted". The documents include Constantine's sisters, letters of his wife Fausta (sister of Maximian), papers of his previous tutor (the pagan Synesius), and the correspondence of Hosi, Bishop of Cordoba, a camp-follower. Despite advice to the contrary, the tutor decides to publish: the extravagant accounts spread by the Church of Constantine's conversion cannot be allowed to remain unchallenged.

If this scenario sounds slightly forced, it is soon forgotten as Thubron plunges us expertly into

the siege of Verona and a maelstrom of interacting diaries and letters, with Constantine at the eye of the storm. Two issues quickly emerge: what is the nature of Constantine's relationship with his beautiful but distant and frigid wife Fausta, and for how much longer can Constantine remain a faithful Sun-worshipper, when all about him he senses darkness and gloom? These issues come to a head when, after Verona is taken in a night battle, Constantine's closest friend dies with a spear through his liver, and a letter of Fausta to her cousin is accidentally intercepted and returned — to Constantine. His struggle to see some hope in his friend's death and his sense of betrayal by his wife drive him to search elsewhere for "meaning": Synesius's pagan-

ism begins to seem thin and profitless, compared with the hope of the resurrection Hosi offers instead. And so to the capture of Rome and the vision of the sign of the Cross.

Thubron himself raises the question of historicity in his foreword, and for what it is worth, it seems unlikely to me that any ancient would be quite so angsty-ridden about his relationship with his wife. I was not wholly convinced by Thubron's portrayal of the thought-process of a 4th-century pagan and barbarian, and it does not ring true that Synesius and Hosi should regard him as such a clod when the evidence of his diaries suggests quite the opposite. But so what? The rapid crossfire of documents is thrillingly paced, compelling our involvement in the writers' concerns, and the intellectual and spiritual turmoil of the age emerges persuasively.

History it may not be, but it would be a dull dog that did not warn to the rich inventiveness of Thubron's reconstruction.

Adult games played for real

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

THE BARSOOM PROJECT

By Larry Niven and Steven Barnes
Pan, £13.95

It's astounding what disbelief-it-or-not data you pick up in this launch-leader for Pan's new SF hardbacks: vampires hate victims to eat garlic, because it sours the taste of blood; flirting outside marriage is called "extramarital tactophilia", the best way to slim is via The Fat Ripper diet-plan which involves being chased by Genghis Khan hordes. Not so much reviewing, as an education in itself. And I am duly grateful.

As, indeed, so should readers be — grateful, that is — because the influence of collaborator Steven Barnes has turned the great hardcore creator of Ringworld, Larry Niven, fantasy-sof at the technical edges. Their *Game Park* — a wonder-world of pastimes for adults to compete in — is not new, but never so completely, almost

casually realized. Illusions are played so much for dangerously real as to be almost indistinguishable from the real thing.

But, just in case we become too mired in conjecture about the nature of things as they are and as they seem, the authors stir it all in a pot of plot about an attempted take-over of Earth, how it affects a

neurotic woman and a stolid security-chief, and a plan to settle humans on Mars (Barsoom is derived from Edgar Rice Burroughs's John Carter novels).

All this, plus a villain who lives in a glass tower, which makes his shattering end only too transparent, a stone's throw from predictability. Attentive reading is required, treading with care on the technological facts so that you don't fall through the fantasy-crevices into bafflement.

But, persevere and your progress reaches positive enlightenment. And, who knows what useful tips about vampires — oh, and Eskimo myths — you'll gather on the way. Just the sort of stuff to stun-gun them with at the next dinner-party. And never get invited again.

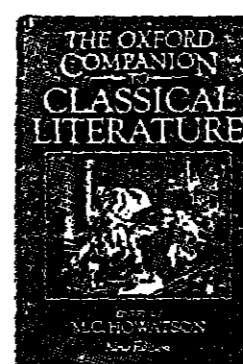
EVERYONE HAS
RULING
PASSIONS
THE BLOCKBUSTING
NOVEL BY
Susan Crosland

'A racy dip into the
shenanigans of Fleet Street
and Parliament'

TODAY
'Would have entertained the
Jacobians with its dark plot,
shifting fortunes, corruption,
illicit sex, passions and revenges'

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PREVIEW

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The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Barry Millington

LONDON
LA CENERENTOLA: The Irish soprano Alison Browne is the new broom in this production (by Michael Hampe) of Rossini's Cinderella story. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: Lively revival by Rebecca Millett of original production by Jonathan Miller. English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 3161), tonight, Sat and Tues, 7pm, £3-£33.
DON PASQUALE: Donizetti with trampoline in Peter Knapp's irreverent, satirical travesty. English National Opera, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm, £5-£15.50.
IL TROVATORE: Verdi's static staging, partly redeemed by strong cast, including Vanessa, Leiferkus, Stetianko and Randova. ROH (as above), tomorrow, Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.
ARIADNE ON NAXOS: Enjoyable evening with some fine Strauss conducting (Lionel Friend) and singing (Anne Evans and Rita Cullis). ENO (as above), tomorrow, Wed, 7.30pm, £3-£33.

OUTSIDE LONDON

MERRY WIDOW/LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Last chance to catch Opera 80's Lehar and Donizetti productions outside London. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 352000), tonight, Sat (Widow), tomorrow (Lucia), 7.30pm, £5-£14.
ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE: (Gluck): 'Sally Burgess's portrayal of Orpheus was described by one critic as "unorthodox but moving"'. Opera North, Theatre Royal, Leeds (01924 482626), tonight, 7.15pm, £5-£20.
THE MIKADO: (Gilbert & Sullivan): John Wells's production for the D'Oyly Carte John Pryce-Jones conducts. Eden Court, Bishop's Road, Inverness (0453 221718), today, 1.30pm, 6pm, £7-£15.

DON PASQUALE: (Donizetti): Patrick Mason's Opera North production bounces back, without the aid of trapezines. Roger Bryson and Judith Howarth lead the cast. Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 482626), tomorrow, 7.15pm, £5-£20. New Theatre, Hull (0482 226655), Tues, 7.15pm, £5-£19.50.
SALOME: (Strauss): André Engel's stimulating production is a masterly understated study in eroticism. The American soprano Cynthia Makris heads the cast. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234), tomorrow, 8pm, £5-£25.50.

L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/GIANI SCHICCHI: Ravel/Puccini double bill, with Andrew Shaw outstanding in the latter. David Lloyd-Jones conducts. Opera North, Theatre Royal (as above), Sat, 7.15pm, £4-£21.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE: (Gilbert & Sullivan): Keith Warner's hilarious production for D'Oyly Carte. Cast includes Marilyn Hill Smith. King's Theatre, Edinburgh (0131 229 1201), Mon, Tues 7.30pm, £5-£12.50.
THE SORCERER: (Gilbert & Sullivan): The Oxford University G & S Society presents one of the less hackneyed pieces. Newman Rooms, St Aldate's, Oxford (0865 279495), Tues, 8pm, £3.50.
LA BOHEME: (Puccini): Travelling Opera give the Weir and Telford Festival a taste of the bohemian life. Town Hall, Oakengates (0562 619020), Wed, 7.30pm, £5.50-£5.50.

DANCE

John Percival

TURNING WORLD: International dance season with Wim Vandekeybus's *The Bearers of Bad News*, noted for his heavy rhythmic and highly energizing style (tonight, tomorrow). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50-£32.

MAYFEST: Glasgow's new dance season. Angela Oei's stunning visual dance theatre piece *Ocean Sirocco* (tonight-Sat, 7.30pm). Michele Anne de Mey (tomorrow), Shobana Jeyaseelan's award-winning *Orientalism* (Sat), Wim Vandekeybus (Sun); and Susanne Linke (Mon).

ROMEO AND JULIET: Ashton's poetic production for English National Ballet. Mayflower, Southampton (0703 229771), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £5-£18.50. Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £3.50-£16.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée* on tour (tonight, Mon-Wed), also *The Dream with Petrus and the Flowers of the Forest* (tomorrow, Sat). Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 412000), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. £5-£17.50. Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury (0227 767246), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm, £7-£18.

YAKSHAGANA: Folk theatre with dance from Karnataka, India. Phoenix Arts Centre, Leicester (0533 554854), Sun, 7.30pm, £5 (£3.50).

PRAGUE CHAMBER BALLET: Brighton Festival has first British season of Pavel Smok's company. Opening programme has choreography by Ginepro and Katerina Frankova, music by Dvořák, Smetana and Mozart. Gardner Centre Brighton (0273 685861), Mon-Wed, 7.45pm, £3.50-£7.

ROYAL BALLET: Last performances of *Giselle* with Bryony Binn and Mark Siver (Sat), Maria Almeida and Laurent Hilaré (Mon), *Giselle* with *Galathea*, *Other Dances* and *Pas de Deux* (Tues). ROH (as above), 7.30pm, £1-£41 (except Tues, £1-£35).

PERFORMANCE ART

Ghislaine Boddington

GRAEME MILLER: *A Girl Skipping*. Invisive and dynamic work from this co-founder of Impact Theatre - a beautifully constructed multi-skilled group performance.

The Green Room, 54-56 Whitworth Street, West Manchester (061 236 1577), tonight, 8pm, £4.30 (£2.80).

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending 5 May 1990

FICTION		
1	Les of Silence, Brian Moore	Bloomsbury £12.99
2	The Buddha of Suburbia, Hanif Kureishi	Faber £13.99
3	Timothy Regained, John Mortimer	Viking £13.99
4	Golden Fox, Wilbur Smith	Macmillan £14.99
5	A Sensible Life, Mary Wesley	Bantam £12.95
NON-FICTION		
1	Oxford Book of Humorous Prose, Frank Muir	Oxford £17.95
2	Michael 1990: France	Michelin £10.50
3	Michael 1990: Britain	Michelin £8.75
4	Barbarians at the Gate, Hugh & Helyar	Cape £15.95
5	Coward's Chronicles, Marti Caine	Century £11.95
PAPERBACKS		
1	The Russian House, John Le Carré	Hodder & Stoughton £4.50
2	A Year in Provence, Peter Mayle	Pan £4.99
3	Devotion & Desire, P D James	Faber £3.99
4	Moon Palace, Paul Auster	Arrow £3.50
5	The Bridegroom, Ruth Rendell	Arrow £3.99
6	Silence of the Lambs, Thomas Harris	Mandarin £3.99
7	Vacillations of Poppy Carew, Mary Wesley	Black Swan £3.99
8	Second Fiddle, Mary Wesley	Black Swan £3.99
9	The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan	Minerva £3.99
10	Hunt for Red October, Tom Clancy	Fantasy £3.99

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

Almost lost in the post?

Robin Holloway's "new" opera is actually quite elderly: the 46-year-old Cambridge University music lecturer first became interested in Samuel Richardson's 1749 epistolary novel *Clarissa* in the late 1960s, and had completed his operatic version by 1976. After several half-promises from the London opera houses, he more or less gave up hope of seeing it on stage, and converted some of the music into a "Clarissa Symphony". Now, English National Opera is staging the opera. Vivian Tierney (pictured here) sings the title role: the heroine who is ostracized by her own family because she will not marry a rich suitor, falls in love with the rakish Lovelace, is abducted to a brothel, drugged and raped. She dies, and her abductor is pursued and killed. Holloway's treatment of this lurid tale is more an internal study in psychology than a gratuitous display of sexual violence. Clarissa, he says, "becomes a young girl with the most fantastic hangups - about sex, pleasure, letting herself go". The music, in line with Holloway's famously reactionary style, is closer to Wagner and Debussy than to the late 20th century. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161), May 18, 22, 25, 29, June 1, 7.30pm, £3-£18.

Richard Morrison



PASCAL DELCEY

Phoenix Art Centre, 11 Newark Street, Leicester (0533 554854), Tues, Wed, 8pm, £4 (£3).

MAYFEST AT THE THIRD EYE CENTRE: A strong programme of events throughout Mayfest: Lumière & Son present Trevor Stuart in *Taboo* (tonight, 9.30pm), new experimental Glasgow company Clammine with *Shakespeare* (tomorrow, Sat, 8.30pm) and Desiree Delaney and Ben Carrara strong and experimental dance/visual artist collaboration (Tues-Wed, 7.30pm). Third Eye Centre 346-354 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 332 0522/041-227 5511). Tickets: tonight, Tues-Wed, £2 (£50), Fri-Sat, £4 (£2).

JACOB MARLEY/STEPHEN TAYLOR-WOODROW: *The Second Sitting*. Pretentious and sexist, over-the-top performance piece, with two or three moments of brilliance. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647), tonight until May 19, Mon-Sat 8pm, £5 (£3 plus £1 day membership).

MICHAEL MAYHEW AND BECKY EDMUNDS: *Going Down On Jesus and Sex, Drink and Fast Cars*. Double bill of work from this dynamic young Manchester duo, who whisk visual and physical theatre together with challenging themes.

Phoenix Art Centre, 11 Newark Street, Leicester (0533 554854), Tues, Wed, 8pm, £4 (£3).

READINGS

Cris Cheek

MIROSLAV HOLUB: Leading Czech poet and scientist writes tough and unimpassioned poems (new collection *Vanishing Land Syndrome*) and revealing essays. Serious fun. Eastern European Forum, ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647), tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

POETRY LIVE 90: A jamboree celebration of contemporary poetry to suit both 18th and 20th century tastes. Among this week's highlights: Jim Burns, John Cassidy, Ivan V. Lall (tomorrow); Lip Service, a duo of Sue Ryding and Maggie Fox (Sat); Miroslav Holub alongside Sylvia Fisherova, whom Holub himself rates highly (Wed); *Which Side Are You On?* (annual conference with lectures, discussions and debates on issues of literature and politics with Miroslav Holub, Karl Francis,

Roy Palmer, Ned Thomas, Marina Warner, and Gwyn Al Williams (Fri-Sun)).

ANNE GRIFFIN: *Griffin Presents*. A new opera, drama and physical theatre placed in a strange cabaret-style presentation. Amolfini Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 239191), Sat, Sun, 8pm, £4.50.

ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON: *Deep Structure of Chinese Culture*. Layering of theatre, dance, politics and poetry from the Hong Kong company Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-381 9629), Tues until May 19, 8pm, £5 (£4).

EIKO AND KOMA: *Night Tide, Memory, Rust and Elegy*. A chance to see these famous Japanese-born Butch artists, back in Britain after many years. Mayfest at The Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street, Glasgow (041 227 5511), Wed until May 17, 7pm, £5.

NOLA RAE: *Elizabeth's Last Stand*. Royal fantasy world woven around a pensioner's mundane life by the "Queen of mime". Dagenham Players Theatre, Dagenham, Cheshire (0606 41597), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £2 (£2). Southport Arts Centre, Merseyside (0704-0001), Sat, 8pm, £2.25 (£2.75).

IRINA RATUSHINSKAYA: Redoubtable Russian poet who is a western version of what *glamour* means. Old Ship Assembly Rooms, Ship Street, Brighton (0273 28801), Sat, 8.15pm, £4.50 (£3.50 concs). Pushkin Club, 46 Ladbrooke Grove, London W11 (01-788 2616), Tues, 7.30pm, free.

IVAN KLIMA: From Prague, editor of the *Czech Writers' Forum Journal* during the Prague spring and author of plays, stories and novels, of which *Love and Courage*, published in March, is the latest.

FARRUKH DHONDY AND ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: Dhondy's *Bombay Duck*, his first novel, has just been published, its energy and invention promises much. Gurnah's third is *Disgrace*, also just available. Catch them in discussion.

Waterloo Road, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Compiled by Karl Knight
 • Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated) across the country.

NEW RELEASES

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of mystery and corruption. Two thrillers given some kick by British director Mike Figgis. Cannon, Baker Street (01-835 9772). Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959). Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

NUNS ON THE RUN (12): Enciella and Rocio Cortez sheltering as nuns in June Sauer's convent school. Fast and furious drag comedy, aimed at fans of the sexually active. From writer-director Jonathan Lynn. Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959). Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING (12): Disappointingly heavy-handed romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Parker, with Jeff Bridges as a psychiatrist torn between two marriages. Alice Kings, Farnham Palace.

SWEETIE (15): Paddy Australian journalist of understated misanthropic making. A comedy about a first feature about by director Jane Campion, posted on the knife-edge between nightmare and farce. Chelsea Plaza (01-485 3443). Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742). Metro (01-437 0757).

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (17): Disappointing, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959). Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

ALWAYS (PG): Sorely's debut in a countless remake of *A Guy Named Joe* with Richard Dreyfuss as a dead pilot returning to earth. Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959).

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG): Amiable if witless comedy about time-travelling, weekly-released teenagers. Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959). Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-war epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Plaza (01-497 9959).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Curzon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). West End (01-438 8811).

COLD FEET (15): Wayward comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montana, co-written by novelist Tom McGuinn and Tom Waits, Keith Carradine, Sally Kelland. Directed by Michael Mann. ICA Cinema (01-630 3647).

DRIVING MISS DAISY (U): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Ury's play about a blind Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Directed by Bruce Beresford.

THE FANTASTIC BAKER BOYS (15): A comedy about a married couple (Michelle Pfeiffer and Jeff Bridges) who are two cocktail waitresses (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Cannon, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-438 8811). Plaza (01-437 9959). Whiteleys (01-792 3303/332

TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR
AND GILLIAN MAXEY
● CRITIC'S CHOICE PETER WAYMARK

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News presented by Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer 5.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television. To contribute ring 061 814 0424
9.20 Gloria Liza. Topical magazine series presented by Gloria Hunniford
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint. General knowledge quiz show
10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays. The story is *Piggy and the Mole*, written and narrated by Pam Ayres 10.50 Bunyip. Cartoon series
10.55 Five To Eleven. Celebrating Wesak, the festival of the Enlightenment of the Buddha
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving with viewers' comments and suggestions about television
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Includes a report by Sir Michael Hordern on the locations that inspired the novelist Thomas Hardy 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Matchpoint. Angela Rippon hosts another round of the innovative quiz show
2.15 Film: Thursday's Game 1944 starring Gene Wilder, Bob Newhart, Elen Burslyn and Claire Lynch. A sparkling adult comedy, wasted in this time slot, about two men facing their mid-life crisis who get away from their

wives every Thursday and discuss their business and marital problems. Wickedly funny script by James L. Brooks and directed with panache by Robert Moore
3.50 Rupert, narrated by Ray Brooks 3.55 Mersey Tales. Mark Chatterton with David Self's story *Paintmen* Book 4.00 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon version 4.05 New Adventures of Mighty Mouse 4.20 Simon and the Witch. Episode 12 (1) 4.35 Tricky business. Children's series about a magic shop and its customers. Guests this week are Paul J. Reeve and Ava De Souza
5.00 Newsround
5.05 Blue Peter. Looks back at when Churchill became Prime Minister 50 years ago today; and features a live performance by Japanese Kodo drummers. (Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland. Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Star 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top Of The Pops presented by Gary Davies
7.30 EastEnders. More Cookney dramas involving the denizens of Albert Square. (Cee-fax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World. Includes a report on a new lightweight winch for racing yachts and how it could be marketed; and Howard Stablesford is in the United States where he visits an experimental mine that is installing a parachute underground
8.30 Russ Abbot. Russ Abbot with more comic mayhem and wacky sketches (r). (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather

9.30 Crimewatch UK. This month's edition of the sometimes voyeuristic but often effective police procedural series includes an appeal for information to find the killer of Dr David Birtwell, a consultant practising in Middlesbrough, who was brutally murdered in February (Cee-fax)



Michael Heseltine, MP, replies (10.15pm)

10.15 Question Time. Joining Peter Sissons around the desk this week are Michael Heseltine MP, David O'Connell, managing director of the Barbican Centre, John Prescott MP, Shadow Transport Secretary, and Alan Davies, the Observer columnist
11.15 Crimewatch UK Update
11.25 Cagney and Lacey. Gritty and polished police series. Tonight the two female detectives investigate a child molesting case and refuse to give up even when the odds appear to be stacked against them. Starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (r). Northern Ireland: D-Day to Berlin. To 12.25am
12.15am Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News followed by Good Morning Britain introduced by Beatrice Hollyer. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After 9.00 the Channel 4 News with its problem posing
9.25 Cross Words. Crossword puzzle game
9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stablesford chairs a topical discussion
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.10 The Riddlers. For the young 12.30 Home and Away
1.00 News at One and weather 1.20
1.30 News and weather
1.35 Somebody's Children. The third programme in the series about adoption examines the experiences of both natural and adoptive parents 2.00 A Country Practice. Medical drama series
2.30 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond takes a behind-the-scenes look at popular ITV and Channel 4 programmes
3.00 Sounds Like Music. Three more contestants line up to be musically

grilled by Bobby Crush 3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Sons of the Desert
4.00 Huxley Pig (r) 4.15 The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin (r) 4.40 Enid Blyton's The Castle of Adventure. Ghostly thriller serial
5.10 Blockbusters
5.40 News and weather
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Enjoyable soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Cee-fax)
7.30 Sporting Triangles. Regulars Andy Gray, Jimmy Greaves and Emlyn Hughes team up with Barry McGuigan, Dean Saunders and Garuth Carroll
8.00 The Bill. Authentic police drama still keeping up a terrific standard. Tonight the Sun Hill officers turn out in force for a night surveillance and June Ackland is left alone with a tough adversary (Cee-fax)
8.30 This Week Prime Minister. A profile of the Labour leader, examining his qualifications for the country's top job. Julian Maryon interviews Neil Kinnock and the closest political allies to find out how his leadership style would work in Downing Street, and follows him behind the scenes in the run-up to last week's local elections

9.00 LA Law. Return of the glossy, fast-moving American courtroom series. (Cee-fax)
10.00 News at Ten and weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.35 The City Programme. Includes an examination of the worth of Business Expansion Schemes; and does sport sponsorship give the City its money's worth?
11.05 01, Well, 071 or 081 for London wouldn't have been a very catchy title, now would it? Up-to-the-minute news, reviews and chunky graphics detailing London's entertainment scene. Followed by Crimewatchers
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Television's version of the personal drama
1.00 Speed Chess. The Infokind European championship
1.30 Film: Madame Rosa (1977) starring Simone Signoret and Claude Rains. Well acted drama focusing on the last years of an elderly, retired prostitute's life. While dying, she attempts to protect a young boy from the truth about his past. Directed by Moisse Mizrahi. Followed by News headlines
3.30 Backroad. Dr Feelgood. Concert footage of this veteran rock band.
4.30 America's Top Ten
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Beautiful sights set to music.
6.30 The Channel Four Daily 9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service introduced by Susannah Simons
1.00 Science Street. Pre-school learning series
2.00 A Full Life. Actor James Fox, who shot to fame in *The Servant* in the early 1960s, talks to Jill Cochrane about his life and why he became a committed Quaker, turning his back on film making for many years (r). (Cee-fax)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Chester. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the Dee Stakes (2.45); the Graham's Machinery Sales Handicap Stakes (3.15); the Ormrod EBF Stakes (3.45); and the Haydock Park Leisure Company Handicap (4.15). The race commentator is Graham Goodie
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. The quickfire general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart
5.00 Garibaldi. The General. Franco Nero puts on the whiskers for another bewitched episode from the flamboyant career of Italy's 19th century liberator
6.00 Things to Come.
● A sort of *Tomorrow's World* beamed at younger viewers but delivered with an irreverence totally lacking in the BBC show. The tone is set with the very first item, about Glenn Thompson, an inventor who has come up with a world through HPVs, or human-powered vehicles. Except that one of them looks like a dog door and the other like a go-kart, these HPVs are little more than bicycles. Thompson tries to argue that they are good to have a crash in and demonstrate by diving straight into a bollard. If the HPV is an old idea dressed up to look like a new one, the programme also shows a Japanese robot which can not only read a piece of music but play it on the

piano. As one of the presenters cheerfully concedes, however, Rachmaninov comes out sounding like Les Dawson
6.30 Kate & Allie. Adult sitcom about two women who decide to share a Greenwich Village home and encounter the problems of single parenthood. This week Allie finds that her anxiety about returning to college is well-founded (r)
7.00 Channel 4 News
7.50 Science Street followed by Weather
8.00 Greek Fire. The eighth in an ambitious but sometimes ponderous series explores the legacy of ancient Greece on western art
8.30 The Crystal Maze. The bizarre looking Richard O'Brien leads another team through the cerebral and physical challenges. Last show in the series.
9.30 My Two Dads.
● Channel 4 has had a highly successful record with bought-in American sitcoms and on the evidence of tonight's opening episode, *My Two Dads* could be another winner. Like many imports from across the Atlantic, it offers no great depth or subtlety but has been made with a polished professionalism in which snappy dialogue enhances a carefully crafted narrative. The premise is that a woman has divorced her husband, leaving a 12-year-old daughter whose father could be one of two old college friends. The putative fathers (Paul Reiser and Greg Evigan) are an ambitious businessman and a free-spirited artist but when it comes to dealing with young Nicole (Staci Keanan) neither has a clue. The joke, in fact, that when it comes to domestic arrangements the part 12-year-old is a lot smarter than the outwardly self-possessed adults.
10.00 Film: Rita, Sue and Bob Too
● A translation to the cinema screen of Andrea Dunbar's gritty play about two mindless Bradford schoolgirls seduced, not entirely unwillingly, by a randy estate agent for whom they

babysit. Dunbar's script, based to an extent on first-hand experience, sees the girls largely as victims of their environment and upbringing; the bleak council estate, a drunken violent father, the meaningless life of school. The estate agent has none of these disadvantages. The spring of his behaviour is an unhappy marriage, or, if you want to try a feminist reading, unbridled male chauvinism. Himself from Bradford, Dunbar invests the piece with a sharp ear for the rhythms of northern speech while a well-judged use of appropriate locations enhances the feeling of authenticity. Unsuspecting viewers should be warned that it is not an edifying piece, and the language is often less than genteel. The central trio are played with convincing naturalism by Siobhan Finneran, Michelle Holmes and George Costigan and the director is Alan Clarke (who made *Scum*).



George Costigan, Siobhan Finneran (10.00pm)

11.45 Film: Sunday in the Country (1984). French artist looking back on his life, starring Louis Dechoux. With English subtitles. Directed with a Renaissance glow by Bertrand Tavernier. Ends at 1.30am

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: A Women's Place? Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster. Highlights from yesterday's proceedings in Parliament, presented by Peter Mayne
9.00 Look, Stranger. A postman in a remote part of Yorkshire is also a columnist for the *Ripon Gazette* (r)
9.25 Daytime On Two. Geometric shapes 9.40 Friendship 10.00 A profile of Bennington Sailing Club 10.20 A-fel statistics 10.40 Textile studies 11.00 Growing Up in Victorian times 11.20 Making use of redundant farmland 11.40 A disabled teenager wants to go to a disco with her able-bodied friend 12.03 Working in a garden centre 12.25 The advantages to Britain of Africa being split into colonies 12.50 Teaching infants 1.20 *ICF Filtration* 1.25 Animal Fair 1.40 Children compose music to illustrate a poem about the forest
2.00 News and weather followed by Watch (r)
2.15 Osprey Watch. Ospreys return to Loch Garten in the Scottish Highlands (r)
3.00 Look, Stranger. An interview with a woman who left her comfortable home to sign on as a cook on her captain husband's ship
3.30 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Includes the Prime Minister's Question Time 3.50
News, regional news and weather
4.00 River Journeys. The Congo. Michael Wood travels up to the mouth of the Congo, the capital of Zaire (r). (Cee-fax)
5.05 Snap! Heather Angel gives tips on photographing pets (r). (Cee-fax)

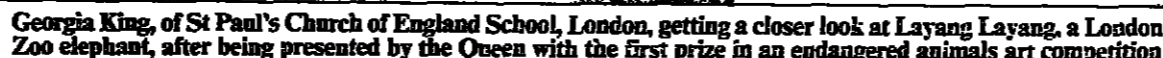
5.15 The Quest For Tannu Tuva. Richard Feynman, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist, was fascinated by Tannu Tuva, a Shangri-La on the edge of Mongolia. The film was made just before his death (r). (Cee-fax)
6.00 Film: The Wild, Wild West Revisited (1979). Robert Conrad and Ross Martin star in this pilot for an aborted series. The plot, such as it is, has the two special agents coming out of retirement to free some heads of state, but themselves getting captured by the bad guys. Directed by Burt Kennedy
7.35 Business Matters: Workers In Mind. The first of a new series investigates stress in the workplace. The reporter is Yvonne Roberts. Northern Ireland: Gardening Together
8.00 Yes, Minister. The magnificent comedy series by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, all the funnier for being within a whisker of the truth. It is extraordinary how real politicians, from Mrs Thatcher downwards, tap it up. This is the one in which Jim Hacker discovers that his department is responsible for the surveillance equipment he tried to ban as an opposition MP (r). (Cee-fax)
8.30 The Last Days of Pompeii. The last programme in the penetrating environmental series looks at the appalling conditions in which battery hens are forced to live
9.00 KYTV. Deft comedy series lampooning satellite television
9.30 Hypotheticals: Television In The Market.
● The first series of the long-running ITV show now being carried by the BBC concludes with a lively discussion about the shape of television in the

1990s. After two moderators from Harvard Law School, responsibility for lobbying out the awkward dilemmas passes to the barrister Geoffrey Robertson. His scenarios cover such hot potatoes as sponsorship, pornography and jamming and the questioning is sharp. On the receiving end is the show's usual strong assembly of experts, and people who think they are experts. As usual there are too many, with the result that individual contributions tend to get diluted and some panelists end up managing to contribute very little. But the format is almost guaranteed to be the show's usual strong assembly of experts, and people who think they are experts. As usual there are too many, with the result that individual contributions tend to get diluted and some panelists end up managing to contribute very little. But the format is almost guaranteed to be the show's usual strong assembly of experts, and people who think they are experts. 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By Mark Souster

He said that union-sponsored MPs would raise the issue of "the scandal of deaths and injuries at the Channel Tunnel in Parliament". In a

Since January of last year there have been 327 accidents. Mr Shaw has been critical of safety standards at the tunnel and has called for more money and effort to be put into safety training. "My experience is that if you run tight financially, you run tight on safety. More money and effort should be put into safety."



By Ruth Gledhill

The first armoured unit to enter the square was the Taman Guards Motorized Rifle Division — the unit reported last week to have mobilized on February 25 in a warning to President Gorb-

Marshal Yazov's short address, to the massed ranks of army, navy, border guards and interior troops, augmented by ranks of bemedalled veterans and — for the first time — members of undercover units, partisans and the home guard, emphasized the support of the military for *perestroika* and the "new political thinking"

The parade was watched from the top of Lenin's Mausoleum by a small group of the national leadership, including President Gorbachov.

Visitors will be able to follow the movement of an elephant herd on a monitor. The project will help curators and scientists work out a

After switching on the satellite link the Queen joined other dignitaries in watching four elephants enjoying a bathe much nearer to home, in the enclosure outside.

And now he painted a
bleak picture. You reach a

Nicosia

IRAN said yesterday it had reached agreement with the US on a number of financial disputes dating from the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Tehran Radio quoted a statement by Iran's mission at the Hague claiming the Iranian government was saying under separate cover that Iran would be paying the US a total of \$105 million (£63 million) to settle more than 3,100 claims.

It quoted Mr Ali Nobari, Iran's representative at the tribunal, as saying the deal had nothing to do with US hostages held in Lebanon.

The agreements were made after talks in The Hague over the past few days. (*Reuter*)

Some asked out page 22

ACROSS

1 His principle — though barely stated — rang in ears, oddly (10);
9 Distant satellite noted by Weber (6);
10 Soldiers busy, responding to orders (8);
11 Bear twins and make light of it? (4-4);
12 Wet sheet of Lombardy yachism? (4);
13 Sign on bars — "Beer left may be treated with chlorine" (16,4);
15 It is uncouth and evil to take money, people say (3-4);
17 The late shift? (7);
20 Concerned with bits and pieces, peraps (10);
21 Mass of weeds obstructing white (5);

23 Soft and spongy furnishing (8).
25 Like the R in Gaul? Tut! it is tricky for us (8).
26 Soldier's cry, having consumed salt (6).
27 Liqueur makes chairman so drunk! (10).

DOWN

2 Resound like a screech-owl, heartily (2-4).
3 Great sacrifice for Tom, say, to ring doctor (8).
4 This jazz needs more than 7 (10).
5 Bass-note heard in parts of the ocean (4,3).
6 Toss (10) for one? (4).
7 Tract, about rding, for exam-

Solution to Puzzle No 18,289

R	O	S	E	B	A	N	C	E	N	A	D	A
K	E	E	A	S	C	H	A	C	N	A	P	A
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	M	A	S	D	A	I
O	O	S	L	R	E	R	E	E	S	M		
V	E	N	A	L	L	I	A	M	E	L	L	A
E	D	P	E	S	E	I	L	I	K			
G	R	A	N	S	H	E	S	O	R	I	D	E
P	E	R	E	M	E	L	L	E	N	E	R	
R	O	V	A	L	T	E	B	E	S	S	I	D
O	C	H	A	S	E	S	E	S	E			
V	I	T	A	L	M	I	R	A	C	E		
N	E	C	E	A	T	E	D	E				
N	E	W	E	A	T	E	C	A	L	E	N	O
C	E	S	S	E	S	M	I	N	N	E	E	A
E	O	L	L	I	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	

Across crossword page 22

CATOPTRIC
a. Covering cats's eyes
b. Looking down on
c. Mirroring

KAKOPYGE
a. A nightmare incubus
b. A whipping-boy
c. Someone with ugly buttocks

LAGNIAPPE
a. A bones
b. A pasta shell
c. A woollen jacket

CLERUCH
a. A plain ruff
b. An alliment-holder
c. A gleamer's satchel

Answers on page 22

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 401 followed by the appropriate code.	
London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & E & Circa.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
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Wales	740
East Anglia	741
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North-east England	743
Midland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 9 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder, d=droizzle, lg=log, s=sun;
si=sleet; sn=snow; l=lc; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F		C	F	
Alejoico	21	70	S	Majorca	22	73
Alcala	21	70	S	Malaga	21	70
Alexis/dria	23	73	S	Malta	21	70
Algiers	24	75	S	Melb/mne	19	66
Almancora/C	20	68	S	Mexico	21	70
Adrena	20	68	S	Miami	27	81
Bahrain	20	68	S	Milan	24	75
Batavia	20	68	S	Monaco	21	70
Barcelona	22	80	S	Moscow	15	59
Belgrade	23	73	S	Munch	21	70
Berlin	23	73	S	Nairobi	21	70
Bermuda*	23	73	S	Naples	20	68
Bienritz	17	63	R	N Delhi	31	88
Bombay	19	66	R	N York	21	70
Buenos	18	65	R	N York	21	70
Bucarest	23	73	S	N York	21	70
Buenos	23	73	S	N York	21	70
Cairo	33	91	S	Peking	21	70
Cape Town	18	65	R	Perth	18	64
Chengdu	18	65	R	Porto	22	72
Chicago	18	65	R	Rio de J	22	72
Chifur church	13	55	S	Rio de J	22	72
Colombia	22	72	S	Riyadh	29	82
C/Ophann	22	72	S	Rome	10	50
Corfu	22	72	S	Rosario	22	72
Dahlgang	22	72	S	S. Francisco	22	72
Dubrovnik	19	66	R	S. Paulo	21	70
Faro	19	66	R	S. Santiago	21	70
Florence	21	70	C	S. Santiago	21	70
Frankfurt	18	65	R	Seoul	26	79
Frankfurt	18	65	R	Sing por	17	63
Geneva	18	65	R	Sing por	17	63
Gibraltar	17	63	C	Sing por	17	63
Helsinki	15	59	S	Sydney	22	72
Hong Kong	20	68	S	Taipei	22	72
Immerick	20	68	S	Taipei	22	72
Indragiri	20	68	S	Toronto	30	86
Jakarta	20	68	S	Toronto	30	86
Jo'burg	20	68	S	Toronto	30	86
Kuala Lumpur	20	68	S	Toronto	30	86
Lagos	20	68	S	Toronto	30	86
La Palma	20	68	S	Valencia	20	68
Le Touquet	15	59	S	Valencia	20	68
London	15	59	S	Valencia	20	68
Locarno	15	59	S	Valencia	20	68
Los Angeles	19	66	R	Warsaw	24	75
Lyons	18	65	R	Warsaw	24	75
Madrid	22	72	C	Warsaw	24	75
Manila	22	72	C	Warsaw	24	75
Moscow	15	59	S			

	Sun	Rain	C	Max
Scarborough	hrs	.06		
Hanburston	8.8			94
Cromer	7.4			88
Clacton	11.3			88
Clacton	11.8			88
Poole	8.7			84
Weymouth	12.3			84
Weymouth	12.6			84
Exmouth	4.5			84
Exmouth	4.7			84
Falkowich	5.9			84
Penzance	5.4			84
Penzance	5.8			84
Jersey	5.9			84
Gurnsey	5.5			84
Gurnsey	5.5			84
Sandwich	5.5			84
Minhead	7.7			84
Minhead	7.7			84
Douglas	0.6			84
Birmingham	9.2			84
Brighton	1.2			84
Buxton	10.7			84
Leeds	2.4			84
Leeds	2.4			84
Nottingham	8.5			84
Anglesey	3.8			84
Cardiff	1.6			84
Colwyn Bay	6.4			84
Tenby	4.4			84
Tenby	4.4			84
Aviemore	2.3			84
Edinburgh	2.5			84
Edinburgh	2.5			84
Kilmac	3.6			84
Lerwick	0.1			84
Stornoway	1.1			84
Stornoway	1.1			84
Three	10.9			84
Three	10.9			84
Belfast	1.4			84

Tuesday's figures are latest available.

TIME WEATHERCALL
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0898 500 followed by

AROUND BRITAIN

[illegible]

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, and Cromer, Norfolk, 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Douglas, Isle of Man, and Cape Wrath, Highland, 09C (48F); highest rainfall: Morecambe, Lancashire, 0.65 in; sunshine: Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 14.0 hr.	Lincs & Humberside 713 Dyfed & Powys 714 Gwynedd & Clwyd 715 N W England 716 W & S Yorks & Dales 717 N E England 718 Cumbria & Lake District 719
--	--

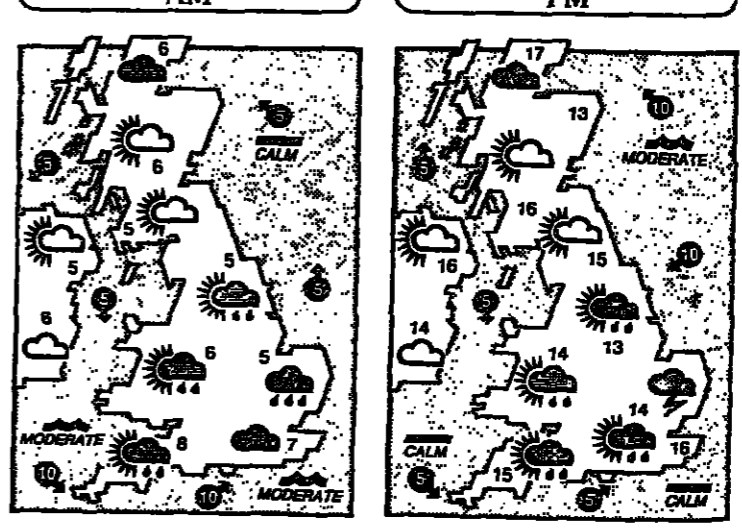
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 07C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.9 hr.	Central Highlands & Borders.....722
	E Central Scotland.....723
	Grampian & E Highlands.....724
	N W Scotland.....725
	Caithness, Orkney & Shetland.....726

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 07C (45F). Rain: 24hr 6 mm, 0.15 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 am, 0.1 hr

AM PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.38 pm to 5.16 am
Bristol 8.47 pm to 5.25 am
Edinburgh 9.09 pm to 5.09 am
Manchester 8.54 pm to 5.18 am
Birmingham 8.54 pm to 5.18 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; f. fair; r. rain; s. sun.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	12	54c	Guernsey	12	54c
Birmingham	10	50c	London	10	50c

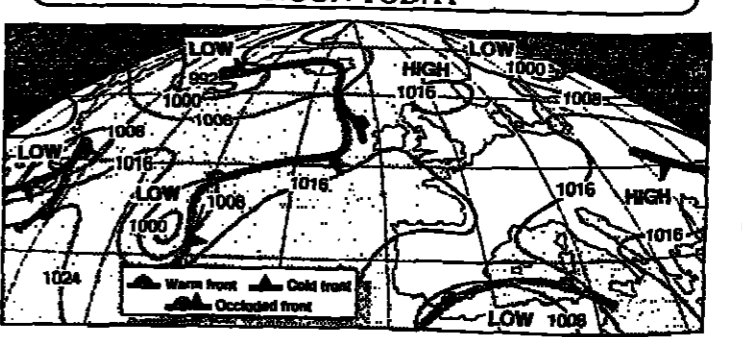
TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at 10am today:

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Londre Bridge	3.02	6.8	3.18	8.3	Liverpool	12.08	8.5	12.26	8.7
Aberdeen	2.26	3.8	2.40	3.8	Levenshelf	1.90	2.3	10.58	2.3
Aberystwyth	8.38	9.8	8.48	12.0	Levenshelf	1.90	2.3	1.18	4.5
Belfast	1.24	3.2	12.16	3.2	Milford Haven	7.21	4.3	7.21	4.3
Birmingham	1.06	6.2	1.14	6.2	Newbury	5.11	6.5	6.28	5.6
Derwentside	1.06	6.2	7.14	5.2	Northampton	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Exeter	8.26	9.0	8.36	9.0	Penrhyndeubryn	6.50	6.5	6.28	5.6
Falmouth	8.26	9.0	6.44	5.1	Penrhyndeubryn	6.50	6.5	6.28	5.6
Glasgow	11.48	1.1	11.48	5.2	Portsmouth	12.34	4.5	12.56	4.4
Haverhill	11.48	1.1	7.07	3.8	Portsmouth	12.06	5.5	12.27	5.7
High Wycombe	12.37	5.1	11.48	5.2	Southampton	12.06	5.5	12.27	5.7
London	7.35	8.5	7.35	8.5	Southampton	12.06	5.5	12.27	5.7
London & Lyons	7.35	8.5	7.35	8.5	Swansea	7.32	8.9	7.48	9.0
Leith	3.06	5.1	11.48	5.2	Wotton-on-Avon	12.43	4.0	1.01	4.0

NOON TODAY



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TEMPUS

Trafalgar set to weather the storm

THE weakest feature of Trafalgar House is undoubtedly the price of its shares. They fell again on the interim results even though these showed how resilient the group has become to a downturn in any of its businesses, even the property development core.

A 50 per cent rise in construction and engineering profits to £34.4 million and a 60 per cent rise to £30.2 million from shipping and hotels kept group pre-tax profit moving ahead, despite a 19 per cent downturn to £67 million in the development and housing business and a £4 million rise in interest charges. There could still be a nasty surprise in the second half, since Trafalgar has a variety of small commercial developments to sell in a sticky market. Sir Nigel Brookes, the chairman, has also prepared the way for a possible writedown of housing land or development projects at the year-end in September.

But any nasty surprise should not be too big. The group does not have any big commercial projects near completion that could turn into costly white elephants. Developments for sale, totalling £800 million, including the landbank, contain a relatively modest £80 million of rolled-up interest. And there is only £100 million off-balance sheet borrowing to add to the £500 million of borrowings.

The further rundown on the housing side has also been carefully controlled. Unit sales were down from 1,900 a year ago to 1,400 in the first half, but profit margins improved slightly.

Even on the development side, therefore, Trafalgar is in a much stronger position to weather the property market storms than more spectacular newcomers. Indeed, the prob-

lems of others will provide some good potential acquisition opportunities, though Trafalgar is not sure the time is yet right.

The leisure side, concentrated at the top end of the market, is still doing well. The construction order book is well up at £2.5 billion and margins, though still thin, have been improving.

On unchanged full-year profits the shares would sell at just 6.7 times earnings and yield a whopping 9 per cent provided the 10 per cent interim dividend rise is repeated for the final.

The group has a lacklustre City image despite its pioneering private sector infrastructure initiatives. A good spread of profits, both geographically and industrially may not help the share price while each week brings more bad news from the property sector. But at this level the shares look excellent long-term value.

Brent Walker

THE City did a distinct double-take on being presented with Brent Walker's figures. Full-year profits about £10 million above best expectations prompted an initial rise of 11p to 313p, but as the analysts started to shake the figures and a few of the "funnies" fell out, the price edged back to end up lower at 296p.

Pre-tax profits of £82.2 million bore little comparison to the £41.7 million reported for 1988 because of the radical restructuring last year, including the purchase of the William Hill bookmaking chain, in for the last two weeks of 1989.

They also included £37.6 million of property profits taken above the line, while £16 million in capitalized interest cut payments on Brent Walker's £787 million



Benefits in adversity: George Walker, chairman of Brent Walker, is ready to buy year-end debts to "only" £40 million.

Mr George Walker, the chairman, is claiming that the gloom in the leisure sector is merely a chance to buy, and that he would be happy with 100 per cent gearing.

So the £250 million to £300 million asset sales planned for the rest of the year, excluding any disposal of the half-share in the Trocadero site, will probably be matched by fur-

ther purchases in the core areas of pubs - still 850 short of the Monopolies Commission's imposed ceiling - and betting shops.

Forecasting for the current year, always a leap in the dark, requires an extra degree of faith in Mr Walker's admittedly formidable dealmaking abilities. There are probably about £46 million of on-going trading profits from the core businesses, but property and

other trading should push the pre-tax figure over the psychological £100 million barrier.

The prospective p/e ratio is a meaningless 3 times, while the yield looks to be about 6 per cent. Still highly speculative.

J Smurfit

JEFFERSON Smurfit may be moan its exclusion from the FT-SE 100 index despite a

market capitalization of Ir£1.6 billion (£1.55 billion), but it can also boast the distinction of being the only paper and packaging company on the world stage to realize earnings growth.

With Ir£848 million cash in the bank after a highly complex restructuring last August in which it sold its North American interests to a joint venture company, split 50-50 between itself and a leveraged fund run by Morgan Stanley, to realize more than £1 billion. Smurfit is ready to take advantage of strategic opportunities likely to come up in the sector after the shakeout.

Smurfit's shares rose 13p to 64p as the company, the world's largest recycler of waste paper, reported a 3.9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £245.5 million on turnover up 21.1 per cent to £183 million for the year to end-January. Fully-diluted earnings per share moved ahead 8.5 per cent to 51p, with a final dividend of 3.237p, making 4.7p (3.975p) for the year.

Net assets per share have more than doubled from Ir£146p to Ir£331p, and Smurfit boasts a 54 per cent cash-equity ratio.

Despite a tough economic climate in Britain and continued weakness in commodity prices in the US, analysts are expecting earnings growth of at least 15 per cent this year, although pre-tax profits are likely to drop as a result of the restructuring of its North American paper interests.

Comparison on the pre-tax line is difficult, as the changes mean that Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, its US subsidiary, will now be treated as a related company.

Smurfit is turning its buying attention to Europe. The shares, on a historic multiple of 12 times against a sector average of 9, look a strong long-term bet.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bunzl chief will peg his salary to results

MR JAMES White, chairman and chief executive of Bunzl, has defended himself against shareholder criticism of his 5.2 per cent salary increase to £420,415 after a year when group profits fell. He told the annual meeting he would not have another salary increase until the group's performance improved.

Mr Alan Diamond, a private shareholder, had criticized the board for what he thought was a poor group performance. But Mr White said there had been a "sound start" to the current financial year, and that results from continuing businesses were ahead of the same period of 1989.

Reshuffle at Kleinwort

KLEINWORT Benson has reshuffled its board. Mr Andrew Caldecott, the Earl of Limerick and Mr Michael Hawkes, a former chairman, are retiring as directors. They will be replaced by Mr Ian Peacock and Mr David Wake-Walker, joint heads of banking, and Mr Brian Manning, joint head of the treasury division.

R&V profits in plunge

Pre-tax profits at R&V Information Systems, the Dutch systems house with a USM quote, plunged from 1.99 million guilders (£637,000) to £143,000 in the year to end-December following a profits warning at the interim stage. There is no final dividend, making 0.308 cents, as eps collapsed from 20.9 cents to 0.8 cents.

Jobs cut at Prudential

PRUDENTIAL Portfolio Managers, the investment side of the Prudential Corporation, is to reduce its staff from 380 to 260 jobs, reflecting the downturn in the property market. Mr Hugh Jenkins, the chief executive of PPM and the chairman of its property division, said the decision did not mean that the Pru was shifting away from the property market. "We have one of the largest and most prestigious property portfolios in Britain, currently valued in excess of £5 billion, and remain an active property investment manager."

He said that after a decade of unprecedented investment and development activity, the property market was now expected to go through a period of consolidation as the development phase reached maturity.

Windsor buys Bliss Weinell

WINDSOR, the Lloyd's broker, is buying the business and goodwill of Bliss Weinell and its Bliss Weinell Investment Management subsidiary for an initial £546,000 and 200,000 new Windsor ordinary shares. A further £2.66 million in cash and 8.55 million new Windsor shares are performance-related.

Ravenhead in buyout

THE management of the Ravenhead glass tableware group and Libbey St Clair, its Canadian parent, have announced a Can\$134 million (£68.9 million) management buyout of the two groups. Mr Carlo Simoni and Mr John Rand, two private investors, have also invested in the deal. Libbey bought Ravenhead in 1987.

Bibby rises 5.7% after reshuffle

By Matthew Bond

PRE-TAX profits at J Bibby, the industrial and agricultural group, edged 5.7 per cent ahead to £16.8 million in the six months to March.

Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, the chairman, said that, despite a number of adverse factors, he expected to show an increase at the full year. In its last full year, Bibby made a pre-tax profit of £28.6 million, a reduction on the £30.2 million of 1988.

That fall in profits was caused by high wood pulp prices hitting the profitability of its paper and converted products division.

Yesterday, Mr Mansell-Jones said the division was no longer making losses, as it had in the second half of last year, and was showing an improvement over last year's profitable first half.

The turnaround was due to rationalization at the Devon Valley Mill and "various organizational changes." Pulp

prices are also showing signs of weakness.

"Pulp costs appear to have peaked towards the end of the half year and we hope for a much more stable market for our major raw material," said Mr Mansell-Jones.

Bibby expanded its paper division last month with the £14 million acquisition of Eurofilter, the Belgian group. Of the group's four main divisions, science products turned in the best performance with a 25 per cent increase in its trading surplus to £6.75 million.

The agricultural division increased its surplus by 10 per cent to £4.8 million.

Bibby's growth is being hit by the current level of interest rates: the group's interest charges more than doubled to £2.72 million.

Earnings per share rose by 5.4 per cent, but the interim dividend is unchanged at 2.75p a share.

RTZ chief condemns high rates

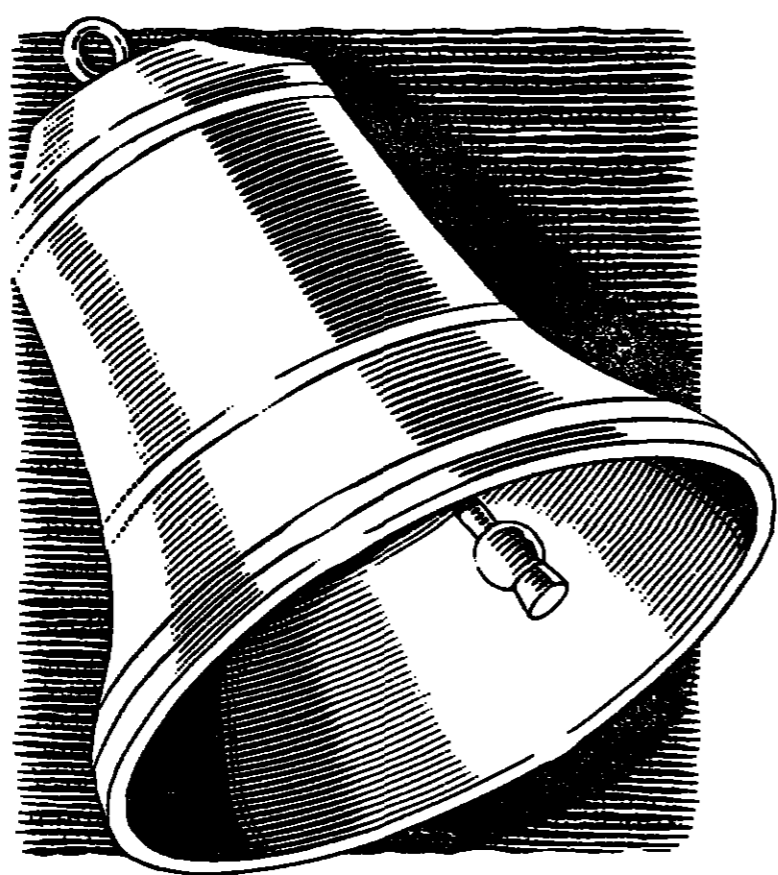
By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

SIR Alistair Frame, RTZ's chairman, told the annual meeting that if world interest rates rise much further, the balance could be decisively tipped towards recession this year and in 1991.

"At present the world economy as a whole appears likely to muddle along with relatively unspectacular growth rates," he said.

Earnings in the first quarter of 1990 were broadly in line with the same period last year, though the outlook for the rest of the year will be influenced by traded metal prices and the extent to which world economic activity is sustained.

RTZ has been given AA credit ratings by Standard and Poor's Corporation and Moody's Investors Services. A new \$2 billion private placing of US commercial paper will provide \$1.5 billion to refinance part of the \$3.1 billion cost of buying BP Minerals.



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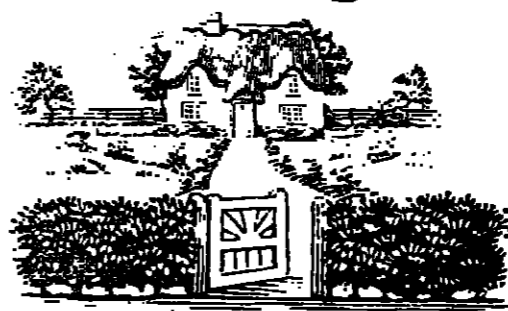
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Management structure

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FIS Approx. property value £ _____ Current income (if any) £ _____

FIS FISHER PREW-SMITH

Gearing set to reach 100% by end of year, says SB

By Stephen Leather

SMITHKLINE Beecham's bid to lower its debt mountain, the result of the merger of America's SmithKline Beecham and Britain's Beecham last July, is on target.

The international health-care group started the year with debts of £1.75 billion, but hopes to cut it to about £1 billion by the end of this year. Reporting first quarter results, Mr Henry Wendt, the chairman, said he was confident he would reach his target of 100 per cent gearing by the year-end. By the end of the first quarter, debt had been cut to £1.47 billion. Since then, the group has sold off 32 US drug brands and cosmetic products for £32 million, its Yardley/Lentheric cosmetics business for £110 million, and raised \$800 million from an

issue of Auction-Rate Preference shares.

The company is hoping to bring in another £300 million from the sale of other businesses.

Pre-tax profits fell from £235 million to £219 million in the first quarter, reflecting a £1 million increase in interest charges arising from the merger.

On a pro-forma basis, pre-tax profits rose 21 per cent, although about one third of the increases in sales and trading profit were a direct result of exchange rate movements. There is also an after-tax extraordinary profit of £82 million from the sale of the Ambrosia, Bovril and Marmite brands to the CPC food group of the US. Overall sales of Tagamet, the group's

anti-ulcer drug, fell 3 per cent. The company blames trade de-stocking in Japan and a 3 per cent fall in the US, where audit figures suggest that Tagamet prescriptions over the past year are down 12 per cent in the face of competition from Glaxo's Zantac.

There were large gains in sales of Dyazide, the blood pressure drug (up 67 per cent in the US), Engerix-B, the hepatitis-B vaccine (up 100 per cent), Augmentin, an antibiotic (up 54 per cent), and Timentin (42 per cent).

Mr Robert Bauman, the chief executive, whose salary last year soared 46 per cent to £1.26 million, was upbeat about the figures.

He said: "This excellent operating performance was driven by continued strong

sales, particularly in pharmaceuticals and animal health, where results have been boosted further by the co-marketing efforts of our combined sales forces.

"We are beginning to see cost savings and margin improvements and these cost savings will accelerate as the year progresses."

Analysts at UBS Phillips & Drew are tipping the shares as a "buy" and are predicting full-year pre-tax profits in the region of £870 million, against £724 million in 1989. The shares closed 6p down at 472p.

A first-quarter dividend of 3.4p a share will be paid on July 16. Earnings per share were 10.8p (12.3p), with P&D predicting 43p for the full year.

Island's finance system 'flawed'

THE framework under which the Isle of Man promoted itself as an off-shore finance centre was "seriously flawed," according to a previously secret report released by the Manx government.

The report, compiled by two officials of the Bank of England, was commissioned in the wake of the £42 million collapse of the island's Savings and Investment Bank in 1982.

"The considerable defects of policy have been exacerbated by sloppy day-to-day administration. It is not conducive to a good regulatory image to set rules, then not object when they are clearly being broken," it says.

The report was compiled in 1982 by Mr Richard Farrar and Miss Wendy Hyde — seconded from the Bank of England to investigate banking supervision on the island. Their conclusion in the report to the island's Lieutenant Governor was "that the administration of the Banking Act has been very seriously flawed."

"The system was ill-considered from the start, because it was not designed to set and police safety margins. Either the entry criteria should have been much stiffer, or the follow-up supervision should have been more intense."

The report was made public by the Manx Government in response to pressure following the collapse last month of the trial of eight men accused of causing the Savings and Investment Bank's crash.

In releasing the report the Manx Government points out that since 1983 a comprehensive and rigorous system of supervision has been established for the Isle of Man's booming finance sector.

Next week the Tynwald — the Manx parliament — will be asked to approve the setting up of an independent inquiry to look at events leading up to and following the bank's crash.

Depositors will also learn if they are to be compensated by the Manx Government.

Miss Gwendoline Lamb, the woman leading the fight for compensation who lost her life savings of £30,000, said: "There is only one course of action that the Isle of Man Government can take in order to maintain its financial integrity and that is to announce immediately full refunds for every depositor."

COMMENT The Professor tackles the tanks on his lawn

THE laws of British Aerospace are looking more and more like Red Square: tanks as far as the eye can see.

Professor Roland Smith, the man who took on Tiny and came out smiling, is meeting the threat with a variety of diversionary tactics. On the day the trade and industry select committee verdict on the Rover "sweeteners" affair — the sale was described as "a good job, badly done" — surfaced by way of a leaked report, British Aerospace made the diversionary move of announcing that it had signed an agreement to study the possibility of developing a second-generation supersonic airliner.

The move, which coincided with the BAE annual meeting, was a nice try, but the word on everybody's lips is still "sweeteners." The Professor points out that since the group acquired Rover, more than half a billion pounds has been committed to new manufacturing capacity, and things are generally looking up. But there was never much doubt that Rover was a fine buy for BAE: in an evening meeting with investment analysts on the day the deal was finally done, BAE made no secret that it had secured a mouth-watering deal. The shares responded accordingly. The investment programme which is turning Rover round will be more than covered by potential property gains.

In the context of the amount of investment required, of the property gains to be made, of the likely turnaround in profits given the culture that was already in the process of change, the amount of the sweeteners was insignificant and hardly worth the political fallout. The Professor may have pushed too hard, but he had his shareholders to consider. His irresistible force needed

to be met with an immovable object rather than industry's flexible friend, Lord Young, the then Trade Secretary.

On another front, the Professor is meeting a seemingly immovable object, Aerospace, controlled by the French Government. BAE and Daimler-Benz, its West German partner in Airbus Industrie, are keen to turn the consortium into a company, a move which does not appeal to the French, apparently on the grounds that companies not only have to be capitalized but also have to publish their accounts.

While the business world in general, and Boeing in particular, would love to see how Airbus is doing, there is more at stake than the satisfaction of outsiders' curiosity. Airbus is now a massive undertaking, and it has arrived at the point where it needs to be managed according to what is best for Airbus, rather than what its partners can agree upon.

Midland balancing act

Mr Gene Lockhart's astronomical progress up Midland's greasy pole speaks volumes for the state of the bank. Not only is he not British, but he is not a banker, having cut his teeth on insurance broking and management consultancy before catching the eye of Sir Kit McMahon. Now Mr Lockhart finds himself in charge of the majority of group operations after barely two years in the place.

The bank argues that his cost-cutting campaign has been reasonably successful, but has been patently unable to pump the extra income through the system to make it worthwhile. He must balance the equation quickly. If he does not, someone from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank might.

Pipe-line to shoot Frankfurt

A little cheer went up in the City yesterday, not because the Footsie lost nearly 20 points but because Nomura Securities has picked London for its European headquarters. In the grand scheme of things, the decision to locate research, planning, accounting, legal and personnel functions in London rather than Paris may appear small beer, but in the rarified world of Japanese corporate hierarchy, this is a big decision.

London was chosen for a variety of reasons, not the least being that Nomura was already bigger in the City than elsewhere in Europe. It is nevertheless of some comfort that when London is under direct threat from Frankfurt and Paris, it has received the vote of the world's most powerful securities house.

That said, the heat is still being turned up, particularly by the West Germans. Dr Rüdiger von Rosen, executive vice-chairman of the Federation of German

Stock Exchanges, gave the International Stock Exchange, and the US Nasdaq market, food for thought this week with his warning that attempts to muscle in on the German market would be met with a counter-attack on other markets by the German Ibis system.

This should not necessarily be seen as a threat, but as a natural development of the global market. Ibis, like Seaq International, like Nasdaq, has the undoubted potential to transact pan-European business, and the choice has to be made as to whether to continue to develop competing systems, or to push the infant Price Information Project Europe (Pipe), funded by the stock exchanges of EC members, to maturity. If London really wishes to stay in front, it should take a lead in the latter, rather than risk being left on the fringes of a Euro-wide system.

David Brewerton

Bear Brand sold by Courtwell

By Philip Pangalos

COURTWELL Group, which recently had its shares suspended at 4p after the appointment of an administrative receiver at its Leisure Investments subsidiary, has sold its Bear Brand hosiery business, which was its only other asset, to the Glamour Group.

Courtwell is now a shell, with some cash as well as some receivables. Dr Edward Vandyk, who became Courtwell's chairman after the departure of Mr Nick Oppenheim, a financier, said: "We will need to ensure we have a clean shell and clarify the position regarding tax losses, which could be in the order of £50 million to £60 million."

Glamour, the leather goods and hosiery supplier which is changing its name to Hartstone Group, acquired Bear Brand for £726,000 in 13 per cent convertible redeemable unsecured loan stock.

The stock can be converted into 409,014 Hartstone ordinary shares, 1.6 per cent of Hartstone, on July 1 next year. The deal will make Glamour number two in the British hosiery market.

After adjusting for the release of about £1.5 million owed to Courtwell, Bear Brand's pre-tax loss for 1989 was £540,000.

Smurfit to seek acquisitions



JEFFERSON Smurfit, the Republic of Ireland's largest company and one of the largest paper, packaging and recycling groups in the world, is ready to hit the acquisition trail in Europe with Ir£848 million (£827 million) cash in

its pocket book (Melinda Wittstock writes). The company said it was looking to pursue a strategy of "logical opportunism."

"The pendulum is heading back to the buyer again, and we've got the cash," said Mr

Dermot Smurfit, the joint deputy chairman (above).

Pre-tax profits rose 3.9 per cent to Ir£246 million and earnings per share climbed 8.5 per cent to Ir51p. The shares jumped 13p to 643p. *Tempus, page 26*

The Guinness trial

Saunders 'confirmed £5m success fee'

By A Correspondent

ERNEST Saunders, the former Guinness chief executive, clearly spelt out the benefits to the Heron Group for supporting the company in its bid for Distillers, a court was told.

Gerald Ronson, Heron's chairman and chief executive, said he was paid a £5 million success fee and £800,000 to cover losses after investing £25 million to help protect the Guinness share price.

In transcripts of his 1987 interviews with Department of Trade inspectors examining

the bid, read to the jury at Southwark Crown Court, he said he was first approached in January 1986 by Anthony Parnes, a broker, who told him it would be helpful if Heron bought Guinness stock to protect its value against selling of stock on the market.

Mr Ronson asked about losses and Mr Parnes confirmed they would be covered by Guinness. He said he had read of the bid in the press and that Distillers were covering the costs of Guinness so he did not think there was anything wrong in being indemnified.

Later Mr Saunders confirmed any losses would be made good by the company. Heron invested £10 million, but during the bid raised its stake to £25 million. Mr Ronson told the DTI he was asked by Mr Parnes to increase the stake.

He said he told Mr Parnes: "Before we go that far, what happens if you are successful in taking over the company. It's very good, we are putting up this money and we are covered, but everyone else is making big fees." He told the inspectors: "I think I said to him 'what do you think would

be a fair fee?' And I think he came back to me and said 20 per cent of the money we were putting up." Mr Ronson told the broker he wanted it confirmed by Mr Saunders.

Mr Ronson said Mr Saunders confirmed Heron would receive cover on losses and a success fee based on 20 per cent of the investment.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, Mr Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, deny 24 charges of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Laing takes the biscuit

A 20-PAGE leaflet written by United Biscuits chairman Sir Hector Laing, ever his own man, has been causing something of a stir at the firm's Osterley, Middlesex, headquarters. The leaflet is a personal reflection on his 45 years with the company, since he will be retiring — and becoming life president — at UB's annual meeting today. But given Sir Hector's well known and vocal dislike of much in the Square Mile, some of his colleagues are apparently reluctant to let the leaflet go on general release. City professionals take offence. For in it he writes: "The stock market is coming to be less a means of allocating capital to productive use than an end unto itself — a computer game for those who compete in the finance league. But it is an eroding game, which undermines the true value of the counters with which it is being played — the national industrial and commercial base." Those same City professionals can, however, hardly object to the leaflet's annual average growth in UB's share price since Sir Hector became managing director in 1964. In short, that means that £1,000 invested then, with gross dividends reinvested, would be worth £54,420 today.

Plus ça change

PRESS relations have come a long way in the 21 years since the Wincott Foundation was established to make awards for excellence in the business

and financial press. At yesterday's "coming of age" awards ceremony, the Governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh Pemberton recalled that the first press adviser to the Old Lady was not even on the payroll, but paid covertly by one of the directors, who was quietly reimbursed. Even when the first press officer was put on staff, his brief was to "keep the Bank of England out of the press, and the press out of the Bank of England."

Index fingered

OFFENDING the Scottish investment community can be a grave mistake indeed, as many a fallen business hero will vouch. And there has been veritable steam coming out of Scottish ears this week after a quote in the *Financial Times* — attributed to Paul Whitney, managing director of British Coal pension funds, appertaining to the continuing bid for Globe — had done the rounds in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square. Whitney's claim that "the potential virtues of

index trusts had ironically been praised in a recent investment trust review from County NatWest WoodMac" — "ironic" since County is defending Globe — has outraged one of the authors of County's annual investment trust review, Robin Angus. Accusing Whitney of "betraying a considerable selectivity of quotation," Angus says that his personal view, as published in County's Investment Trust Review of 1988 (published in February 1989) remains that, "As for indexation, it is the ultimate cop-out. Indexing one's portfolio for fear of underperforming is like castrating oneself for fear of getting AIDS."

● TALK about appropriate names... staff in the Bath Street, Glasgow, office of BP Exploration, has received a memo from office manager Allan Abbot Anderson about the disappearance of a number of toilet rolls from the third floor lavatory. Given that none of the cardboard inner tubes are ever found, he can only assume that they have been stolen. And to investigate this alarming state of affairs he has appointed a Mr Lien.

Whole in two

CREDIT Lyonnais Securities, the international division of the firm which also encompasses Laing & Cruickshank, has poached the two men who were running Bankers Trust's South-east Asia department — Jonathan Compton, aged 37, and Australian Gary Williams, aged 41. Compton, who started his new job as MD of CL's Far Eastern desk this

week, says their task will be "to bring the whole thing together." "When it comes to non-Japan Pacific equities, CL has been a very Hong Kong-centric firm and that is no longer good enough. You have to cover the whole region because most clients don't just want to be invested in one country, they want to invest in the region as a whole." Compton and Williams worked for two years at Bankers Trust but have known each other for 10. "Ever since I was an investment manager in Hong Kong and Gary was my broker," says Compton.

● ONLY from California — mineral water for pets. A company called Thirsty Pup is marketing the specially-bottled water at \$1.19 a gallon and manager Michael Angelo says: "Customers say 'I won't drink tap water so why should my pet?'"

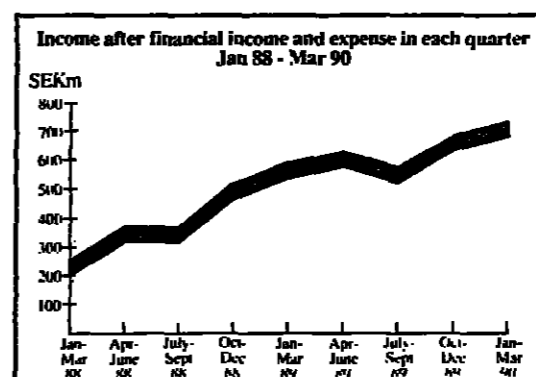
Take-off meals

FOR those of you who have not notched up enough air miles already... Japan Airlines is offering an alternative to in-flight food — no-flight food. It has just opened a restaurant in Osaka, the interior of which is a replica of a JAL Boeing 767, complete with cabin crew, video tapes of travel information and seats available in either executive or first-class sections. "We are aiming the restaurant at people who maybe don't travel very much, but want to try out the experience," quipped an airline spokesman. Surely stating the obvious....

Carol Leonard

SKF First Quarter 1990

SKF profits continue to increase



January - March 1990	Increase	Swedish Kronor	Sterling equivalent
Income after financial income and expense	22%	721m	70m
Earnings per share	7%	3.70	36p
Sales	13%	7,112m	695m

In line with the Company's declared long term strategy of continued expansion through acquisition, SKF has already made two major investments in 1990. Cofler, the Italian tool company

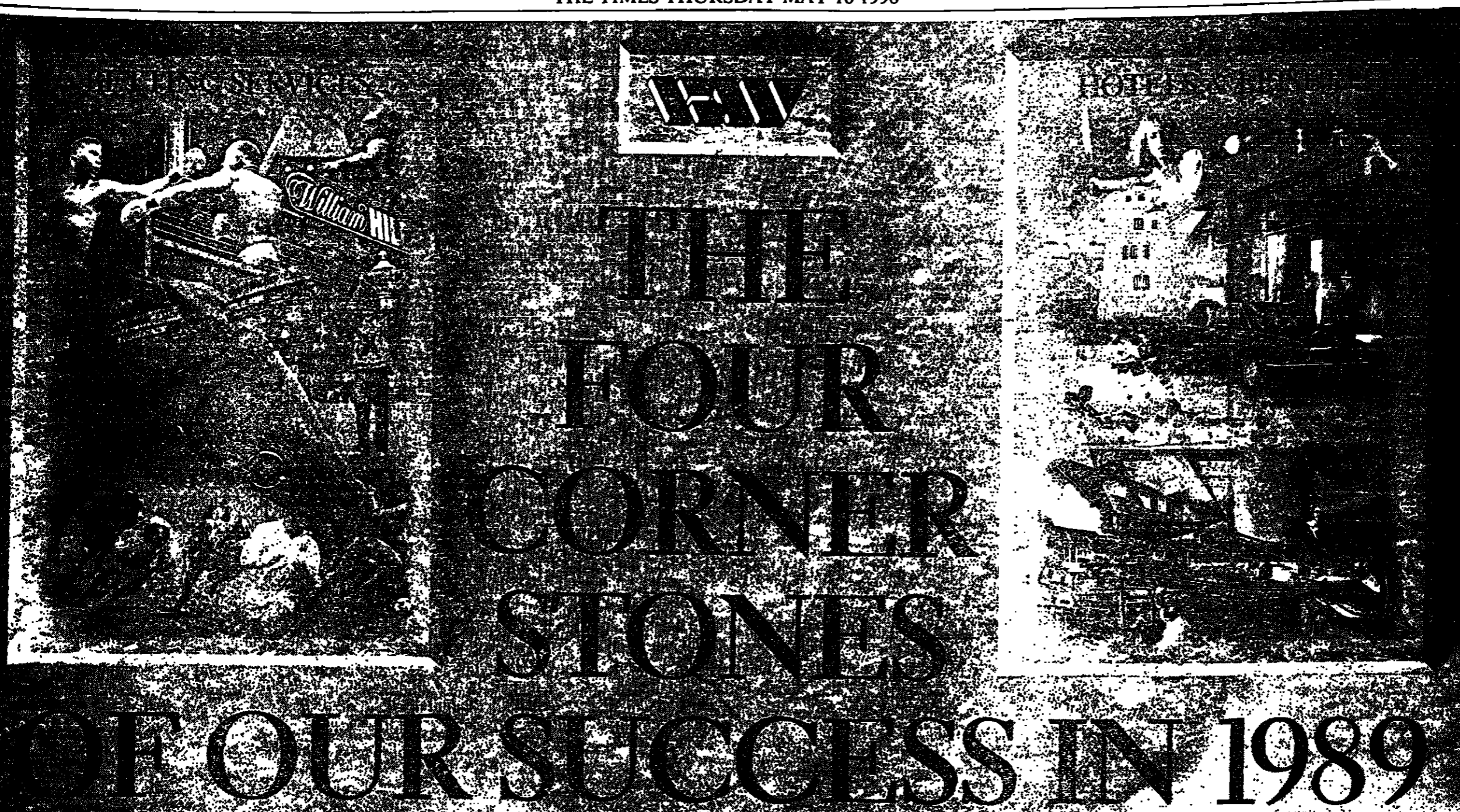
and Chicago Rawhide, a major US seal manufacturer, has given SKF a stronger position in each of their specialist markets.

For a copy of the 1989 Annual Report, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs S-415 50, Göteborg Sweden. Tel +46 (31) 371000

Average rate of exchange for 1988: 1 GBP = 10.86 SEK; 1989: 1 GBP = 10.54 SEK; Jan-Mar 1990: 1 GBP = 10.23 SEK.

AB SKF

SKF



THE FOUR CORNER STONES

OF OUR SUCCESS IN 1989

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 1989 (unaudited)

	1989 £M	1988 £M	%CHANGE
Turnover	526.0	128.9	+308%
Profit before tax	82.2	41.7	+97%
Earnings per ordinary share <small>(fully diluted)</small>	88.7p	41.05p	+116%
Dividend per ordinary share	15p	11p	+36.4%
Shareholders funds	856.0	603.6	+41.8%

Once again it is my pleasure to be able to report to you on a year of record results and one which also saw a substantial expansion of the Group's activities. The most significant feature of 1989 was the increase we made in the bookmaking business by the investment in William Hill to add to Brent Walker Bookmakers to become one of our four core businesses of Pubs and Brewing, Hotels and Leisure, Leisure Developments and Betting Services. Each of these businesses is individually managed by its own board and is independently accountable to the Group for its performance and development.

We now have a well-balanced group of activities and have enjoyed another record year during a period of major expansion. We are, however, never complacent and strive continually to improve both the asset base and profitability of our company. We seek to do this by the rationalization of our existing activities, a carefully planned programme of acquisitions and disposals and by seizing opportunities to develop our core businesses.

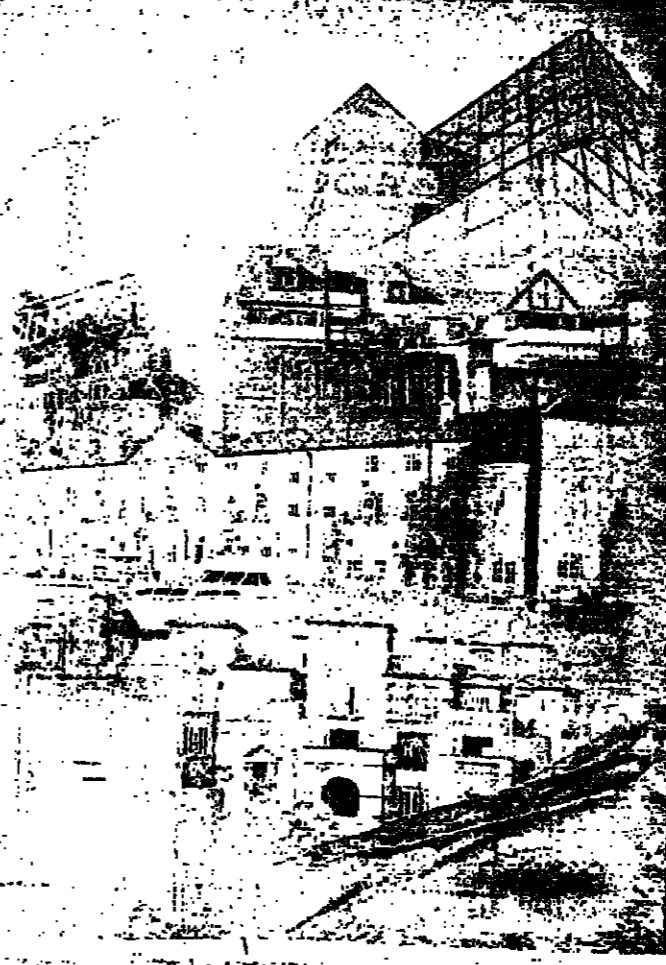
Whilst companies have operated within a very narrow range of economic conditions, our diversified base of activities has protected us from most of these problems. A substantial proportion of our business is in Pubs, Brewing and Betting Services and these activities generally show a strong resistance to reductions in consumer spending. I am pleased to report that the company has started well and we look forward with confidence.

Chairman & Chief Executive

Full details of the company's activities are recorded in the annual report and accounts which will be available from The Company Secretary, The Brent Walker Group PLC, Brent Walker House, 100, Pall Mall Street, London W1V 7PA.

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Profits at
Telford
edge up
to £15.2m

VW sets Euro
record by selling
2.94m vehicles

American steps
in Midland shaft

Inflation to hit 10%

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Profits at Telfos edge up to £15.2m

By Wolfgang Münch

Telfos Holdings, the engineering group, suffered a fall in earnings per share from 22.5p to 15.2p last year. Pre-tax profits were up marginally, from £5.16 million to £5.26 million.

The company also reported an extraordinary charge of £3.9 million, which is mainly a result of the £4.7 million costs involved in the closure of Security, a subsidiary specializing in security door entry systems and furniture retailing.

Telfos sought buyers for the company, but when this failed the loss-making security business was sold to its management for a nominal sum.

Telfos shares fell by 12p to close at 173p. The final dividend is 6.4p, making a total of 10p (8p).

The company said it will now concentrate on its core businesses in the raising and mining equipment sectors.

Last August, it became the first Western firm to take control of a Hungarian company, when it acquired a 51 per cent stake in Ganz-Hunslet, the national manufacturer of railway rolling stock. There was no contribution from this business in 1989, although Telfos believes there will be substantial profits in future years.

Bid success would place bank's main assets in US

AIB rises 52% to £229m

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

ALLIED Irish Banks raised pre-tax profits by 52 per cent to £229 million (£229 million) in the year to end-March, in line with its forecast, despite an £141 million Latin American debt write-off and an £5.6 million provision against local authority swaps.

Earnings per share rose 39 per cent to 124.4p after the effects of the rights issue in 1988. The bank is raising its final dividend to 14.25p, making a total of 17.75p, up 22 per cent.

Last week, AIB announced a \$224 million bid for Baltimore Bancorp, to consolidate First Maryland, its existing US bank. It is holding an £162 million rights issue to finance the acquisition. The bank is waiting for a formal reply from Baltimore's board, expected to come at the annual meeting next week.

Much of AIB's growth came from its home base, where the bank still controls more than 40 per cent of the market, like its traditional rival, the Bank of Ireland. Pre-tax profits in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland grew by 33 per cent, boosted by the strong growth in the local economy.

The two countries still bring in 44 per cent of AIB's profits, but if the bid for Baltimore succeeds, the largest part of the group's assets will be in the



Strategy stand: Paddy Dowling (right) and Roy Douglas, UK group general manager

US. First Maryland has been one of the more successful acquisitions of a US bank by a European group, with 20 per cent compound earnings growth in the last five years.

AIB's shares slumped after the announcement of the cash call, the second in 18 months.

However, Mr Paddy Dowling, the deputy chief executive, said the bank was committed to its strategy. In

Britain, AIB continues to try to develop a niche bank, targeting smaller companies and professional practices.

It has 60 offices and wants to acquire a medium-sized building society to extend its branch network further.

The Latin American debt provision increases the bank's cover on Third World loans to 70 per cent. The write-off on local authority interest-rate

swap deals has arisen after the English Court of Appeal ruled that some contracts were beyond local authority powers and were invalid.

The bank's total assets grew 8 per cent to £15.9 billion in the year.

The advance was held back, however, by the strength of the Irish punt. Growth in the underlying currencies was 16 per cent.

Crystalate falls into red at half time

By Our City Staff

CRYSTALATE Holdings, the electronic components group where Lord Jenkin of Roding, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, is chairman, incurred a pre-tax loss of £297,000 in the half year to end-March, against profits of £2.29 million last time.

As a gesture of confidence, the interim dividend of 2.2p is maintained. Crystalate faces a hostile £32.5 million bid from TT Group, but last week, Vishay Intertechnology of Pennsylvania, one of its US suppliers, said it was considering a counter-bid and would give its decision by May 28. By then, Crystalate will have to release all information relevant to its defence.

Lord Jenkin said his board was seeking clarification of the Americans' intentions. Meanwhile, shareholders should take no action over any documents released by Vishay.

The shares fell 2p to 80p on the interim figures, against an equivalent of 84p available in new shares from TT.

Crystalate saw just £31,000 of operating profits during the first half, and a £225,000 profit from the disposal of property was wiped out by interest charges 46 per cent higher at £1.15 million. The sale of the telecommunications division is complete.

Bank study backs use of interest rates on spending

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

FEARS that deregulation and innovation in financial markets over the past decade have blunted interest rates as a counter-inflationary weapon are wholly unfounded, according to the Bank of England's latest *Quarterly Bulletin*.

Indeed, its study of how interest rate changes transmit to the economy concludes that monetary policy now has a greater impact on spending in Britain than in the past.

"The overall conclusion is that a rise in interest rates should currently have greater effect in reducing aggregate demand than previously," it says.

The findings back the Government's stance that interest rates are the right tool for curbing demand, and thereby inflation — a position widely attacked as a "one-club policy."

But while the Bank sees higher rates having more impact, entailing greater downward pressure on inflation, it believes a number of current factors, such as labour market tightness and wage pressures arising from the effect of mortgage rates on inflation, might limit the impact.

In these circumstances, a fall in profit margins may be relatively more important, it suggests, also acknowledging

evidence of a "powerful link" between a stronger exchange rate and lower inflation.

The Bank concludes that the channels by which interest rates influence aggregate demand and inflation are now more clearly discernible than before.

The study, released ahead of today's publication of the bulletin, finds that examination of major overseas markets provided "little firm evidence" of any radical change in the way monetary policy influences the components of aggregate demand.

The initial impact of deregulation and structural change in the 1980s is seen to have reduced the effect of interest rates in Britain as borrowing became easier, but the availability and lower cost of credit boosted both sides of the personal sector's balance sheet.

The expansion of personal sector gross debt has taken it from being a net creditor to a net debtor on floating rate terms, making households more sensitive to interest rates, especially mortgage rates.

The study considers it likely the personal sector will be less able to maintain expenditure in the face of an increase in debt service costs.

VW sets Europe record by selling 2.94m vehicles

By Wolfgang Münch
European Business Correspondent

VOLKSWAGEN has consolidated its position as Europe's largest car maker with a rise in car sales to 2.94 million last year, the highest ever recorded by a European producer.

During the past year, the company, which has been struggling to improve its margins, succeeded in increasing pre-tax profits by 33 per cent to just over DM1 billion (£372 million) for the first time in its history.

The rise in profitability came as a result of improved sales and a cost-cutting programme, which began two years ago and included the shedding of 1,500 jobs last year.

Turnover was up from DM59.2 billion to DM65.4 billion. Despite an improvement in operating margins from 3.6 per cent to 4.6 per cent, Volkswagen still lags behind some of its main European rivals, in particular Fiat, in terms of profitability. The dividend on ordinary

shares was raised from DM10 to DM11. The preference share dividend went up from DM11 to DM12.

The turnaround in the company's fortunes continued during the first quarter this year, although current-year profits may be depressed by falling earnings from VW's Brazilian subsidiary, which is suffering from the consequences of the tough economic policies by the recently installed government.

Later this year, Volkswagen is planning to start producing its new range of Polo cars in East Germany as part of a planned DM5 billion investment programme over the next five years.

VW has also formed a joint venture with VEB IFA-Kombinat Personenwagen, the official East German producer of Trabant and Wartburg cars. VW is also the front-runner to win a co-operation agreement with Skoda of Czechoslovakia.

American steps up in Midland shuffle

By Our Banking Correspondent

MIDLAND Bank has shaken up its boardroom in an effort to speed its reorganization and combat falling profits. An American, Mr Gene Lockhart, becomes head of both group operations and the retail bank. It is rare for a foreigner to be given control of a high street bank's core business.

Mr Lockhart was previously chief executive of Midland's group operations division, and was responsible for reorganizing the entire back office operations. He replaces Mr Michael Fuller, the present chief executive of retail banking, who is retiring early after 41 years at the bank.

Mr Lockhart came to the bank in 1987 from First Management Consultants in New York.

His appointment was one of Sir Kit McMahon's first

moves as chairman.

He has bived off much of the retail bank's paperwork into 13 district service centres, allowing staff to spend more time with customers, and led similar changes in the securities business.

Despite this, Midland's costs have remained high with a cost to income ratio of 72.4 per cent last year, by far the highest of the main banks. Since then, Sir Kit has warned that profits are running "well below" last year's, threatening to raise the ratio even higher.

A spokesman said: "Mr Lockhart will be in an even stronger position to drive through cost savings." He will be assisted by Mr Rodney Baker-Bates and Mr Ronald Price, appointed managing directors of UK banking and operations respectively.

Inflation 'to hit 10%'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE annual inflation rate will average 9.1 per cent this year, after peaking at 10 per cent in August, but will only show 9.5 per cent in the April data due on Friday, Schroders predicts in its weekly forecast. The City consensus for 1990 is 8.5 per cent.

Mr Keith Wade, Schroders chief economist, believes the impact of a 10 per cent

devaluation of the green pound may have been underestimated, and will exert upward pressure on inflation towards the end of the year, as will the uniform business rate.

He fears that private sector pay negotiators are holding back until the April figure is out, while local authority claims have still to be submitted.

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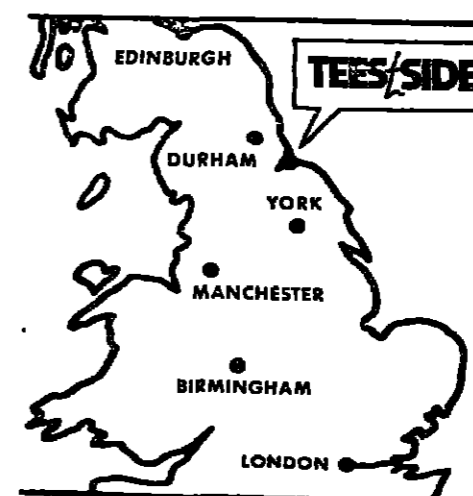
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TEES/SIDE

Initiative Talent Ability

US insur
not exce

Deficit of
£170m at
NZ group

She
pro

US insurance profits are not excessive, judge says

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA'S 17 million motorists can virtually say goodbye to any significant rebates they expected on car insurance as a result of reforms which became law last year.

The 4,000 insurance companies operating in the state, including Commercial Union, Royal and General Accident, had braced themselves for costs in rebates of between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

But Judge William Fernandez, of San Francisco, has delivered a 27-page opinion setting out a fair rate of return for insurance companies and effectively concluding they have not made excessive profits. If his ruling stands, there will be no reason for the companies to offer rebates.

Judge Fernandez has been

criticized for having an alleged conflict of interest over the issue by Mr John K Van de Kamp, the California Attorney General. Mr Van de Kamp wanted the judge taken off the case because his wife, Judith, works for a law firm which advises insurance companies. However, Judge Fernandez has had the support of Miss Roxanne Gillespie, the Californian Insurance Commissioner, who has to rule on whether she will accept his findings. Her guidelines on fair rates of return are six months late.

Judge Fernandez says insurance companies in California may earn a rate of return of between 11.2 and 19 per cent. The insurance companies had been seeking between 16 and 21 per cent; the

insurance department wanted a fixed figure of 11.2 per cent. Judge Fernandez's findings have been welcomed by the insurance industry and are seen by some as a second blow to insurance reforms known as Proposition 103. This was designed to take insurance rates back to levels prevailing in November 1987 and then cut them by 20 per cent.

Consumer groups which inspired the legislation two years ago have condemned the findings as a farce. Mr Harvey Rosenfield, the Los Angeles consumer activist and author of Proposition 103, said it was as though the electorate had never cast their votes.

Mr Van de Kamp said that, under some accounting methods, Judge Fernandez's recommendations could give

insurance companies a profit margin of 35 per cent on some of their business. The judge recommended that when calculating a fair return, contributions to political organizations, lobby groups and charities ought to be excluded. But the salaries of the companies' executives ought to be counted as an expense.

According to the insurance department, companies have been making an average annual return of 11.2 per cent over the past 15 years - in line or lower than recommendations from Judge Fernandez.

Last week, a Los Angeles judge swept aside other parts of Proposition 103 by telling insurance companies that they may continue setting premiums by post code, age, sex and marital status.

Deficit of £170m at NZ group

Auckland CHASE Corporation, which earlier announced that it lost NZ\$74.3 million (£25.6 million) in the six months to December 31, showed a deficit on shareholders' funds of NZ\$494.0 million (£170.3 million) on December 31 against NZ\$419.8 million at June 30.

Chase, whose property arm was placed under statutory management last year, provided no comparison with the 1988 period in its statement, which failed to meet Stock Exchange requirements.

It notched up New Zealand's largest-ever corporate loss in the year to June 30 with a group loss of NZ\$841.4 million.

Chase sold NZ\$195 million of property in the six months. It has operated under an informal moratorium and hopes to have a High Court scheme of arrangement in place by July. Chase said it is clear from its balance sheet that unsecured creditors will receive only a small payout.

It said: "It follows that the shares and options of Chase Corporation listed... have no value." (Reuters)

Shorter runs hit profits at Titon

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at Titon Holdings, the Unlisted Securities Market window ventilator maker, fell 8.8 per cent to £706,000 in the six months to end-March, while turnover climbed by 9.3 per cent to £4.83 million.

Mr Peter Farrar, the chief executive, said the downturn in profits is due to a more competitive market, with some margin pressure, and less efficient manufacturing due to shorter production runs.

He added that although business is up by 9 per cent, demand is for shorter runs with more smaller orders.

Earnings per share are reduced from 4.69p to 4.23p, but the interim dividend is raised from 0.94p to 1.03p.

Mr John Anderson, the chairman, said that, despite the difficult trading conditions, the company has improved its market position.

He said the increase in sales volume came mainly from non-ventilation products - this is seen as good news for the company with the ventilation market yet to show its full



Farrar: margin pressure

potential. The company should benefit from changes in building regulations, which came into effect from the beginning of April and specify background ventilation in all habitable rooms, although the slowdown in new building has resulted in a delay in the expected increase in ventilator sales. Domestic ventilation accounts for about 60 per cent of the group's business.

Titon has launched its Trimvent 4000 range of ventilators, ready for the change in regulations. The shares eased by 5p to 80p.

Rentokil expands overseas

By Our City Staff

RENTOKIL Group, the environmental and property services group, is making a series of purchases in the US, Australia and Canada for a total of £1.68 million.

In the US, Tropical Plant Rentals, the group's American subsidiary, has paid £470,000 for Maxine Interior Plant-scape, of Milwaukee, a market leader in tropical plant rental and maintenance.

In Australia, the company has acquired Everglades Indoor Plant Hire Services in Sydney for £340,000. It will be integrated into the Green Fingers garden centre business bought by Rentokil two years ago.

Rentokil is also taking over Jungles Interior Display Plants in Adelaide for £520,000. It will form the basis of an Adelaide tropical plant rental operation to parallel that in Sydney. Acquisitions are expected to accelerate its growth.

Rentokil (Canada) has acquired Pest Prevention Services for £350,000. This will form the basis of a pest control branch at Burlington, Ontario.

Far East competition squeezes watches group

Profits run slow at Time Products

By Gillian Bowditch

TIME Products, the Sekonda watch group, is being squeezed in the Far East. Japanese competition and price-cutting in Hong Kong hit pre-tax profits for the year to January 1989 and they fell from £17.3 million to £15.1 million.

Sales rose from £62 million to £68.2 million but earnings per share fell from 24p to 20.6p. The final dividend is 4.5p making 7p for the year up from 6.5p.

British profits rose from £9.2 million to £9.7 million but profits from Hong Kong fell from £5.92 million to £1.95 million.

Mr Marcus Margulies, managing director of Time Products, said: "The major suppliers of watch movements to Hong Kong are the leading Japanese producers who increased production and reduced their prices considerably during the year. At this stage there is little indication that prices will rise. In the short term, therefore profitability will remain depressed."

In Britain, Sekonda increased its market share and had a satisfactory year. Three new sub-brands of Sekonda were launched last year, the Safari collection, the Soviet collection and the Airborne range. Stubbs, a new prestige brand, with prices in the £35 to £65 range, was also launched last year.

Since the year-end, Time has won the distribution agency for Certina watches in Britain, which Mr Margulies says is an expensive brand by



Price movement: Time Products' Marcus Margulies

British standards with prices at about £120. The average watch price in Britain is £20 but he says that other nationalities, for example, the Italians, are more likely to spend £200 on a watch.

The luxury watch division had a good year with sales and profits significantly ahead.

Blancpain and Girard Perregaux did particularly well in North America.

The group has entered a joint venture with the Soviet watch industry, which Mr Margulies says should bring significant benefits in the long term. Shares in Time Products rose 3p to 157p.

Airlines plan tie with DHL

From Joe Joseph Tokyo

DHL, the world-wide courier service, is negotiating a tie-up with Japan Air Lines, Lufthansa and a big Japanese trading group in a deal that will eventually give the three suitors control.

By adding a sophisticated network of Asian and European air routes to DHL's network, the deal will heat up the already intense competition between DHL and Federal Express and United Parcel Service, DHL's two biggest American rivals.

A spokesman for JAL would only say: "We are studying a proposal to invest in DHL, but no final decision has been reached."

However, *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's leading financial daily, said a deal, committing JAL, Lufthansa and Nissho Iwai to investing \$500 million in DHL by 1992, could be reached this month.

The report said JAL and Lufthansa would take initial stakes of 5 per cent each, and Nissho Iwai an initial stake of 2.5 per cent, in DHL's Asian and European operations.

By 1992, to coincide with the single European market, JAL, Lufthansa and Nissho Iwai will own 60 per cent of DHL's Asian and European operations between them. By then, the three companies also plan to have acquired 20 per cent of DHL's American operations, the newspaper said.

DHL is privately owned by the handful of investors who started it 21 years ago. They want to increase DHL's muscle and realize some of their capital gains.

JAL has been particularly keen to raise its profile in the American freight business. It has air cargo services to main airports and uses local trucking companies from them. But JAL feels that its present network will not cope with the increasing competition.

JAL's strong presence in Asia and Lufthansa's in Europe will give DHL both an impressive world-wide reach and access to the airlines' information systems.

Cakebread falls

Pre-tax profits at Cakebread Robey & Co, the Enfield builders' and timber merchant, slumped from £946,000 to £74,000 in the year to end-December. Turnover slipped from £26.4 million to £24.9 million. Earnings per share fell from 10.4p to 5.5p. The final dividend is reduced to 1.9p (3.3p), making 2.7p (4.1p).

Mandarin Oriental International Limited

Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of Mandarin Oriental International Limited will be held at the Connaught Rooms of Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong on Monday, 4th June 1990 at noon for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive and consider the Statement of Accounts and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the year ended 31st December 1989
- 2 To declare a final dividend
- 3 To re-elect Directors
- 4 To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration
- 5 To consider and, if thought fit, adopt with or without amendments, the following Ordinary Resolution: That

a) the exercise by the Directors during the Relevant Period of all powers of the Company to allot or issue shares and to make and grant offers, agreements and options which would or might require shares to be allotted or be issued and is hereby generally and unconditionally approved;

b) the approval in paragraph a) shall authorise the Directors during the Relevant Period to make and grant offers, agreements and options which would or might require shares to be allotted, issued or disposed of after the end of the Relevant Period;

c) the aggregate nominal amount of share capital allotted or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be allotted (whether pursuant to an option or otherwise) by the Directors pursuant to the approval in paragraph a), otherwise than pursuant to a Rights Issue, or the issue of shares pursuant to the Mandarin Oriental Employee Share Purchase Trust, shall not exceed 10% of the aggregate nominal amount of the issued share capital of the Company and the said approval shall be limited accordingly;

d) for the purposes of this Resolution

"Relevant Period" means the period from the passing of this Resolution until whichever is the earlier of

- (i) the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company; and
- (ii) the expiration of the period within which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is required by law to be held;

"Rights Issue" means an offer of shares open for a period fixed by the Directors to holders of shares on the register on a fixed record date in proportion to their then holdings of such shares (subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to fractional entitlements or legal or practical problems under the laws of, or the requirements of any recognised regulatory body or any stock exchange in, any territory including, without limitation, arrangements relating to the disposal of shares which, by reason of such exclusions or arrangements, are not allotted to the shareholders who would otherwise have been entitled thereto).

By Order of the Board
RC KWOK Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 9th May 1990

Notes
1 A Member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him: a proxy need not also be a Member of the Company.
Completion and return of the proxy will not preclude a Member from attending and voting in person.

2 The Register of Members will be closed from 21st May to 25th May 1990 inclusive, to verify those shareholders entitled to the proposed final dividend of HK\$0.28 per share which will be payable on 11th June 1990 to those shareholders registered on 25th May 1990.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL
THE HOTEL GROUP



"As we enter the 1990s, our objective of continuing to generate superior performance is encouraged by our excellent results for the past year."

Gerry Scanlan
Group Chief Executive

First Class Service brings record results

- AIB achieves record pre-tax profits of stg £229m - 52% up on last year
- Total assets increased to stg £15.4 billion
- EPS up 39% to stg 23.6p
- Final dividend of stg 4.10p, giving stg 7.24p for the year
- Britain - strong performance - profits up 23%
- First Maryland Bancorp - 25% annual compound growth in profits for past 6 years

Allied Irish Banks plc

If you would like to receive a copy of the Group report and accounts, available from 12 June, please write to Group Librarian at AIB Bank, Bankcentre, Belmont Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex or telephone 0895 72222.

FHF says apathy is cause of demise

By Michael Clark
Stock Market
Correspondent

FHF Market-Makers, a small firm of market-makers based in the Midlands, has become the latest casualty of the dramatic fall in turnover on the stock market in the wake of the 1987 crash.

The company said it had decided to cease trading as from the close of business on Tuesday, but it emphasised that all agreements would be settled in the ordinary way. The company said there were no debts involved with the decision to cease trading.

Mr Bob Watson, a director of FHF, blamed the decision on apathy among investors towards the equity market. He said: "It really was a case of lack of interest in the stocks we dealt in. We specialised mainly in third-line engineering companies related to the Midlands industrial area."

FHF dealt in about 150 issues, including a dozen alpha stocks and 60 beta stocks. The remainder of the list was made up of gamma stocks.

Mr Watson added: "Since the crash, most of the business has been done in the top 100 companies, or Alpha stocks. There is little interest in the smaller companies, and when there is, it is all one way - selling."

It is estimated that turnover levels among some broking houses have fallen by as much as 50 per cent in the past year, leading to renewed fears of another round of job losses in the securities industry.

A number of firms are struggling to generate the business needed to meet rising overheads. Mr Watson said that regional market-makers were more vulnerable to the slide in equity turnover levels than many of the regional broking firms. The latter, he added, had managed to keep ticking over helped by their specialist knowledge of the region within which they operate and the corporate, institutional and private client business they had managed to build up in better times.

FHF was formed four years ago by a group of dealers after their local market-making firm was swallowed up in the run-up to Big Bang by UBS Phillips & Drew, the leading securities house.

Mr Watson said: "We saw a hole and decided that we could fill it."

Cheque costs checked

WHEN a building society bounced a customer's £10 cheque and charged him £5 he felt hard done by. But a Family Money survey shows that he got off lightly. It can

cost £15 for a bank or building society to refer a cheque to the drawer. Also under review on Saturday are store cards, the cost of cancelling a holiday and the level of protection afforded offshore investors.

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

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Monopolies inquiry knocks shares in car distributors

SHARES in Britain's motor distributors and component suppliers were thrown into disarray by the news that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is launching an inquiry into the pricing of new cars.

The MMC has been given the task of finding out why car prices are higher in this country than in the rest of Europe. The investigation is expected to last 15 months and will also look at the supply of replacement parts.

Falls were seen in distributors such as T Cowie, 5p to 34p, Appleyard Group, 4p to 111p, Caffyns, 8p to 510p, Evans Halsegh, 3p to 185p, Frank G Gates, 3p to 92p, Gowlings, 2p to 113p, Lex Service, 6p to 235p, Lookers, 3p to 107p, Pendragon, 4p to 111p, Perry Group, 5p to 143p, Quicks, 3p to 113p and Trimoco, 4p to 174p.

Companies supplying car components also failed to escape the mark down with losses reported in Kwik-Fix, 2p to 64p, CKN, 6p to 39p, adding 1p to 268p - a rise on the account so far of 34p. Market men believe that the Solaglas takeover puts a high price on Heywood, Rival Pilkington, Britain's biggest

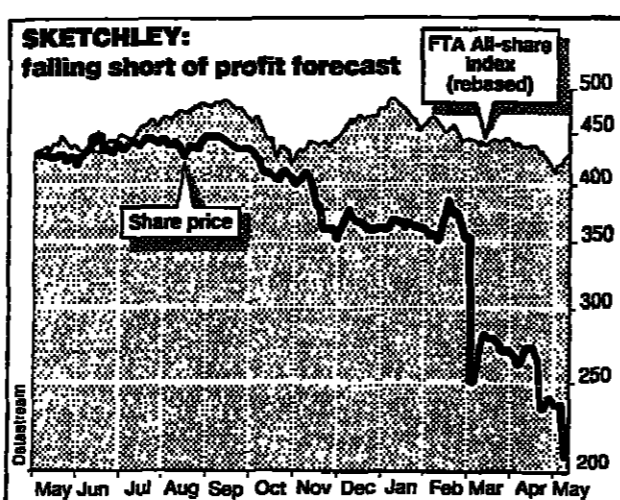
glass manufacturer, slipped 5p to 186p but analysts expect its annual figures next month to show pre-tax profits up from £325 million to £340 million. Sketchnley, the dry cleaning and office services group, which last month saw an unwanted £97 million bid

from the Compass Group, slipped 30p to 206p after the new management team of Mr John Richardson and Mr Tony Bloom issued a warning that it was unlikely to meet the profits forecast made as part of its defence.

News of a downgrading of profits left Barclays Bank 16p lower at £24p and Midland Bank 5p down at 290p. BZW, a subsidiary of Barclays, has cut its pre-tax profit estimate for this year from £1.65 billion to £1.6 billion and its figure for Midland by £68 million to £522 million. BZW's Mr Julian Robins expects Barclays' domestic debt provision to jump from £187 million to £325 million and Midland's to double to £156 million.

Government securities achieved early gains of 2/4, drawing strength from the overnight auction of short-dated bonds in New York. But they eventually reversed the rises ahead of the second round which started last night.

Heywood Williams continued to benefit from last week's



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Investors in Tokyo sell after advance

SHARES closed slightly lower on profit-taking after the gains of the previous two days. The Nikkei index eased 24.97 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 30,945.61. In a day of few dominant factors, investors bought issues case-by-case. But brokers were heartened by another day of high turnover.

Mr George Nimmo, the manager of equities sales at SBCI Securities Japan, said: "It's good to see the market absorbing all the buying. The market is holding up remarkably well given the jitters we had a month ago."

Brokers said that the momentum on Tuesday continued into yesterday's trading, with about 700 million shares changing hands against 750 million.

The Nikkei surged in an early-morning rally, clearing 31,000 points, but fell in late morning on profit-taking and selling by arbitrageurs of long cash positions. Morning dealings finished with the index down 121 points. It regained some ground in thinner afternoon trading.

Rises outnumbered falls by more than five to four with 572 higher, 409 lower, and 139 unchanged.

Pharmaceuticals led the rises, followed by the property, credit/lease, paper/pulp, retail, machinery, airline, chemicals, steel and rubber sectors. Non-life insurers fell, as did the warehouse, oil, railway/bus, broking, communications, service, electrical and precision machinery sectors.

● **Mong Kong** - The Hang Seng index shook off morning losses of almost 25 points to close down 11.31 at 2,942.27. The broader-based Hong Kong index lost 7.08 to 1,932.50. Prices closed off their lows as institutions maintained their cautious stance.

● **Frankfurt** - The DAX index slipped 2.73 to 1,896.55. (Reuters)

Michael Clark

WORLD MARKETS

Profit-taking clips Dow

NEW YORK THE Dow Jones industrial average was down 3 points at 2,730.56 in early trading but, in the general market, rising shares took a small lead over falls. The general market was stubbornly edging higher after gains in seven consecutive trading days.

However, blue-chip issues showed small losses on profit-taking. Analysts said the selling was expected and several still forecast that the Dow average would approach its

record close of 2,810.00 in the short-term. Some support was based on success of the first part of the Treasury refunding and expectations of success in the final two auctions this week.

● **Sydney** - The All-Ordinaries index closed 0.9 of a point up at 1,477.8 after moving within a narrow range. The market closed slightly firmer after drifting for most of the day.

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However, blue-chip issues showed small losses on profit-taking. Analysts said the selling was expected and several still forecast that the Dow average would approach its

record close of 2,810.00 in the short-term. Some support was based on success of the first part of the Treasury refunding and expectations of success in the final two auctions this week.

● **Sydney** - The All-Ordinaries index closed 0.9 of a point up at 1,477.8 after moving within a narrow range. The market closed slightly firmer after drifting for most of the day.

● **Singapore** was closed for a public holiday. (Reuters)

[illegible]

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Voice of growing concern

There are many aid agencies in the United Kingdom to help older people and those who care for them get the best out of life (Pat Blair writes). Many turn to Citizens' Advice Bureaux and there is a multiplicity of voluntary bodies providing specific services, such as Meals on Wheels.

The two main organizations are Age Concern — a confederation of local independent groups under the four national bodies in the British Isles — and Help the Aged, a charity that concerns itself with older people here and overseas, providing information by telephone and in print and running a housing division to manage 500 sheltered and unsheltered dwellings, as well as residential homes and donated houses.

Celebrating its golden jubilee this year, Age Concern England is a youngster compared to the people it serves. By the year 2000, there will be nearly 10 million people over the age of retirement. Most are likely to be reasonably healthy and active, but they will have profound effects nationally on social policy, pension planning and health care.

Through its advice to governments on policy and its service of help and information to individuals and groups, Age Concern England has come to a position of influence in the care and welfare of older citizens, providing well-researched facts and figures.

"We were the first voluntary agency to have someone help an all-party group of MPs to raise the level of debate about older people," Dr Sally Greengross, the director of Age Concern England, says. "We now service two all-party groups, one in the Lords and one in the Commons. It does the same on a European level. For a voluntary organization we have a sophisticated policy and organization department which is working all the time on legislation and proposals."

Age Concern is the country's largest such charity and brings together more than 80 organizations and representatives of its confederation of about 1,100 independent local Age Concern groups in England. If one includes the other three national Age Concern federations, there are about 1,500 such groups in the UK in contact with millions.

Age Concern England is undertaking eight pilot projects to see how computers can be used to impart information on both national and local services to a wider number of people. If feasible, computers would be based with local Age Concern groups.

Along with King's College, London University, the agency established in 1986, the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology to further the study of that specialty, the academic study of age and ageing.

Pat Blair examines controversial plans to care for the old at home or in the private sector

Government intentions towards community services affecting elderly people living at home or in residences other than hospitals have provoked a mixture of hope and disappointment among professionals, voluntary organizations and the private care sector.

There are fears that the range of proposals, in a White Paper that followed an inquiry by Sir Roy Griffiths, and the National Health Service and Community Care Bill now going through Parliament, will miss their mark unless there is real co-operation between all the agencies involved, something that has often failed to happen in the past.

The Bill would, from next April, make local authorities the co-ordinating agencies for community care. They would be expected to place greater emphasis on looking after people in their own homes wherever possible and also to make greater use of private sector facilities.

Getting this system right is important when the number of people aged over 65 is projected to rise by almost a million after the turn of the century — and those aged over 85, the most dependent, by more than half a million.

Professor Elaine Murphy, a psycho-geriatrician and general manager of Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority, says: "With our knowledge at the moment it is easy to predict the services that will be required. It is manageable."

The new legislation will help. "Health authorities need to sit down with local authorities and agree on the spectrum of provision of care — from those with a mild degree of dependency to those wholly dependent and ensure we have a comprehensive plan to fill in all the gaps."

When it comes to accommodation there is a wide range of options, although choice is not available to everyone, often because of lack of money. There is supported care in one's own home; retirement housing; sheltered housing, where a care warden is on hand; residential homes, public and private, which have to be registered with the local authority; and nursing homes — health-authority registered — which are mostly private or run by charitable organizations, although there are three National Health Service nursing homes under a pilot scheme. Limited resources have meant that many local authorities have been unable to expand their provision of homes for elderly people, which has left much of the development to the private and voluntary sectors. They contain some of the best provision there is, and also some of the worst, but what concerns many people is how to pay for it.

According to Dr Sally Greengross, the director of Age Concern England:



Smiling through: the number of people aged over 65 is projected to rise by almost a million by the year 2000

Raising the gentle hand of warning

"The latest worries we have had and have been very forceful about to government have been the problems of people in residential care and nursing homes who have literally run out of money."

The trouble lies in this gap between what people and the state or local authorities will pay and what it costs to run homes and services for dependent elderly people.

The NHS nursing homes experiment was set up because of the cost of keeping old people unnecessarily in hospital. However, according to an evaluation by Newcastle University for the Department of Health, they have proved to be only slightly cheaper and the indications are that the private sector can perform the role more cost-effectively.

"The private sector also wants to provide domiciliary and out-reach services, but the great fear is that the amount of remuneration coming from social services for this type of care will not cover their costs," says Dr Patrick Carr, chief executive of the Residential Nursing Home Association.

While being critical of the Government's proposals, Dr Carr is equally scathing of those who are in the nursing-home business for profit at the expense of good care. He would like to see the "cowboys" pushed out. He defines them as those "more interested in making money than giving genuine care."

"Everybody in independent health care needs to make money if you can't, you will go out of business," he says. But the association's 22 years of

experience suggests that there are between a third and a quarter of the nursing homes in the country that it would not admit into membership.

The association runs its own inspectorate, with qualified nurses checking the quality of care in homes, whether they are palatial or more simple abodes. "Over the past four years, we have turned down and/or put out of membership about a 100 nursing homes," he says. Those homes are still operating, still registered by the health authority, he says, although the association does inform the local authority concerned.

Tactically, he says, health authorities agree that they often take no further action as they would be left with the problem of where to accommodate the residents if the home was closed.

Age goes under the microscope

Studies may help to cut accidents

Are elderly drivers at greater risk? Do they have more accidents and what makes them alter their driving habits? The answers are not known — yet. However, by 1992, when the single European market comes into being, researchers collaborating in Britain and The Netherlands may have discovered more about normal older drivers (Pat Blair writes).

The study, requested by the European Commission's Drive Programme, is one of many under way at the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology, King's College, London. The unanswered questions show how little is known about normal old age.

Although gerontology — the study of ageing and old age — has long been an academic subject, it was only in 1986 that the institute was set up. It came, says Anthea Tinker, professor of social gerontology at King's College and director of the institute, from Age Concern's research unit, which sought a more academic environment with access to a wider range of disciplines.

King's was chosen as its base because of the number of people at the university who were already studying old age — more than 60 in all academic fields, from nursing to biomolecular studies. "That was the key," Prof Tinker says, "the potential for multi-disciplinary research."

This month the institute publishes research after a three-year study, tested at Ipswich, Suffolk and Newham, east London, to assess whether elderly people with dementia can be sustained in their own homes for longer than at present possible, by providing additional support.

It is also starting a five-year study into successful survival in the community, looking at indications of how much care people will need around the age of 85, and considering whether they will have to move into institutions.

Prof Tinker says: "We are looking at those who survive independently with a reasonable quality of care and

quality of life and at the end of the time trying to tease out what enabled them to do so."

Whether it is from such studies as looking into services for ethnic minorities, commissioned by the Department of Health, or the effects of fluorescent lighting on the eyesight of the elderly, funded by industry and with the resources of Moorfields Eye Hospital, the institute aims to spread as widely as possible the knowledge it has accumulated, to help planners, policy-makers and the providers of services as well as older people themselves.

For example, in investigating the causes and consequences of falls among old



Professor Anthea Tinker: great potential for research

people, under a study funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, the institute wants to identify which people fall and what can be done to prevent, treat and rehabilitate.

The second stage of research involves seeking similar examples in other countries, such as community-teaching programmes or educational video films on how to make the home safer.

"In the third stage, we are going to set up a big demonstration project — if we get the funding — based at King's College Hospital, which will bring the best of everything we have learnt from all over the world," Prof Tinker says. "We will then see if we can, over a period of time, reduce the number of accidents."

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Computer techniques could make life easier and safer for the elderly. Pat Blair looks at a new industry advocated by a university scientist



Handy: Professor Wolff shows stick-on components for managing switches and plugs



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Hi-tech aid for the aged

Computer technology today makes it easy to design an environment that will talk to you. Sensors on a cooker could detect that it was on longer than usual and activate a voice asking whether you had forgotten something. Similarly, sensors could tell whether an elderly person had gone to bed and was warming up properly, and could understand a mumble if that person was in trouble and alert a neighbour.

If there were 50 sensors in the house, you could have a good idea of what the occupant was doing. You would know whether the front door or windows had been left open and whether something had been left switched on. Such a conscience, or watch-dog, is technically possible and would not be particularly expensive, about £2,000, according to Professor Heinz Wolff, head of the Institute for Bioengineering at Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

"You would have the combination of a memory and a watch-dog," he says. "It need be no more than something akin to a bleep or an alarm on a watch." The ways in which society can offer old people modern gadgets to help them live more easily is a preoccupation for him.

At the institute, technological connections are made between apparently disparate fields - outer space, undersea diving, medicine, disability and old age. Prof Wolff explained the link in his inaugural lecture after setting up the institute in 1983: "I said it was all to do with people who had some difficulty in relating to their environment. The divers obviously have a very hostile environment, spacemen have a very hostile environ-

ment, little old ladies have a very hostile environment. This was the thread that tied it all together."

He believed there was probably a basis for a new technology-based industry producing appliances and gadgets - tools for living - that were of particular service to elderly people and which might help correct some of the defects that develop with age.

Mankind's story is the story of tools, he says. None of the things we are or have done could have been achieved without appropriate tools, from flint hammer to spectacles or computer. They are the means that allow humans to impose their will on nature or other humans.

In terms of mankind, however, old people are a new tribe. Only 100 years ago, people who were frail and aged over 65 would have been rare. It has taken thousands of years to develop artefacts for able-bodied adult use. The development of tools for the physically weaker or disabled is still in its infancy by comparison.

Developing the technology is only a small part of the challenge, Prof Wolff says. The problems arise when you try to fit these advances into society. The institute has a contract to make a device that will remind people when to take their medicine. Prof Wolff says it is not technically difficult to design something that, say, rings a bell and drops a pill into a hopper. It can even be elaborate, such as flashing a message on a television screen.

The questions arise after that. Who will load the pills into it? Is it the pharmacist who dispenses the medicine? If so, will the pharmacist be paid, and who pays?

Must it be someone professionally qualified or could it be a neighbour,



Stumble-proof: the trolley that locks if you lose your footing

who then may be sued for inserting the wrong pills?

How and where an old person finds the appropriate tools, and how they are paid for if the individual does not have the money, poses other problems. In Britain, those persistent enough could get many things free

from public sources. Yet, Prof Wolff says, it is only when you have a market that you get reasonable design and lower costs.

There are few places where everything needed in old age is available under one roof, the equivalent of Mothercare for children. At least two companies supply a range of gadgets, made by themselves and others: Nottingham Rehab and Homecraft.

Three years ago, Nottingham Rehab set up Ways & Means, an independent company operating a mail order service. It offers about 200 of the 5,000 items that Nottingham Rehab sells through institutions where specialist advice is available.

Prof Wolff suggests that "granny shops" could be another answer, whether independent or under franchise in large department stores, where an expert consultant could help with equipment that required professional advice.

Prof Wolff says he focuses on elderly people because their large numbers seemed to create a market.

"I also thought they were getting a raw deal," he says. "Out of the technological world, they have had least advantage from it."

"If all I was doing was to add another three things to the good aids that there are already, I would not find that in itself a particularly satisfying career. But to say that we do that because we can see there are certain gaps in the market - to combine that with really trying to change the attitude, the circumstances in which it operates - seemed to me to be worthwhile, although it is much more difficult to do. I have cast myself to some extent in the role of trying to change hearts and minds."

A wealth of advice on money

Jon Ashworth explains the guidance available to pensioners

The three most important things in elderly people's lives are likely to be health, happiness and money. Usually health and happiness depend on how much cash is left at the end of the month. As most pensioners have to count every penny, a sudden expense can have a terrible effect on the budget. However, many elderly people do not realize there are places to turn to when money worries get too much.

The telephone directory will probably reveal several advice centres within easy reach. They will offer to help with claiming age allowances or understanding technical letters. A good place to start is the charity Age Concern, which has more than 1,400 branches. Counsellors advise on money problems, check that elderly or disabled people are claiming all benefits due to

them, and arrange for bill payments to be rescheduled. Dr Sally Greengross, Age Concern's director, says elderly people are often referred to other advisers if they have specific queries.

In addition, more than 100,000 people write to or telephone Age Concern direct every year. To cut the workload it has published three guides and at least 30 fact sheets. The first guide, *Your Taxes & Savings*, costing £2.70 and now being reprinted, outlines the tax rates fixed in the Budget, and lists the bewildering variety of savings accounts and products that have sprung up in recent years. It could be all the general advice on tax and investment that many older people need.

The second, *Your Rights 1990-91*, costing £1.95, looks at the money benefits available for the elderly. It shows how the single person's weekly £46.90 pension can be topped up and explains what people who want to work part-time must do. It discusses the community charge and ways of minimizing the extra cost it brings and includes a chapter on benefits for the disabled.

The third booklet has a warning about home income plans, which give loans with the old person's home as security. Scarcely a week goes by without another mailshot urging retired home-owners to "unlock the value of your home". In *Using Your Home as Capital*, costing £2.50, the elderly are warned not to rush into schemes without checking the details carefully.

The fact sheets, which deal with everything from the poll tax to making a will, are available at local branches or from Age Concern, Freeport, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 9AS (081-640 5431).

Elderly people living in London may like to try Pensioners' Link, a charity set up in 1964. Advisers at the eight branches will tackle money problems or anything else, and sometimes visit people at home if they cannot easily get out.

Shevanthi Gonesekera at the Kensington and Chelsea branch says many pensioners get in touch because they find it hard to make ends meet. Others bring in letters they have received about the poll tax or income support.

"Many of them have difficulty paying the gas or electricity bills," she says. "We can get in touch with the fuel boards and negotiate with them. Very often these things

can be sorted out quite easily. They feel relieved because someone has sat and listened to them. They know they can ring me or come and see me."

For local addresses and more information, contact The Central Office, Pensioners' Link, 405-407 Holloway Road, London N7 071-700 4070.

Charities such as Pensioners' Link can also check to make sure the elderly are claiming all the benefits and allowances to which they are entitled. The attendance and mobility allowances may be especially useful as they are tax-free.

There are more than 1,000 Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Britain and many of them run money advice centres to deal with specific problems. Like Age Concern and Pensioners' Link, the "Citizens' Advice", as it is warmly known, may be able to get bills rescheduled to help the elderly through a difficult time. During the 1980s the number of people seeking help with their finances more than doubled. There were 1.4 million inquiries during 1988 and 1989 alone, when the surge in interest rates began to bite.

Local branches are under C in the telephone directory. People who are housebound are encouraged to telephone or write, while those in debt will be passed on to the more specialized money advice support units.

For many elderly people, local social security offices have enough information for their needs, and counsellors do their best to help with queries. There is usually a good supply of leaflets explaining the benefits and allowances payable.

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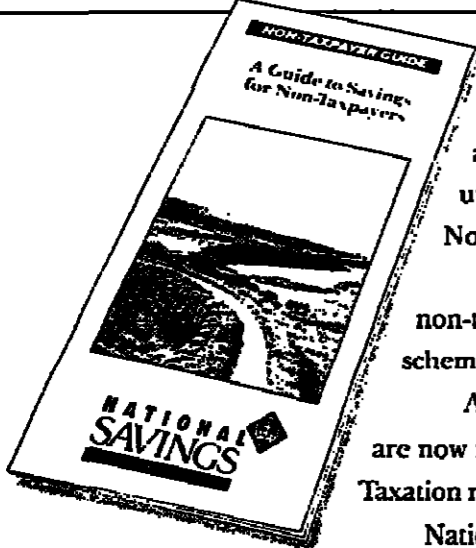
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CARE OF THE ELDERLY/3

The skills of older people are becoming increasingly sought after by employers, Ann Hills writes

The untapped force

Work after work is at last coming into vogue as new initiatives start to meet employers' demands and provide opportunities for a vast, underused mature workforce.

Third Age Network — a membership organization — was launched in April. Its key task is to ease men and women in this age bracket — approximately 50 to 75 — back into stimulating employment.

John Farago, director of the network, says: "We have a data base of people who are available for employment; we ask them to emphasize what they want to do rather than what they have done."

The data base contains 2,000 names. "I hope to get 10,000; even that is only one out of 1,000 of the potential — a total of 10 million people over 50 who are economically inactive," says Mr Farago, aged 61, who ended his full-time career as chairman and

chief executive of Buzel Australia, a paper company.

The network, which will form local branches, is backed by top companies, from Coats Vycella to British Telecom and the Pearson Group, and by the Department of Employment.

A newsletter, *Transitions*, is spreading its philosophy.

The current issue of *Transitions* reports the launch of the Carnegie Trust's three-year, £750,000 inquiry, "Life, Work and Livelihood in the Third Age".

The director, Terri Banks, who was formerly director of the Office of Population Censuses and Service (OPCS), says: "We shall look at the key policy issues for this emerging and important age group; at what people want and the role of institutions and the government."

Shell is the main sponsor of another new venture — Age Resource Rewards — being announced next week. This will promote schemes which foster the employment of older people, says Bob Boote, former director general of the Nature Conservancy Council, who at 70 is backing the venture because "we need to create an enormous shift of attitudes".

Such a shift has taken root among the largest retailers, including Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda. The reason is simply the tremendous demand for staff.

"We have a workforce of about 86,500 in the UK," Prue Raper, Sainsbury's press officer, says. Turnover can be as high as 40 per cent, creating huge gaps on top of new jobs which number about 10,000 every three years as stores open at the rate of nearly two a month.

Sainsbury's calculates that nearly 500 of its staff are over 65 and two are over 80. Most of the jobs available to older people are basic — shelf fillers, cashiers and others under the heading of customer service. Junior managers are allowed to stay on beyond the normal retirement age (60 for women, 65 for men) when appropriate. Senior managers still have to leave, although that policy is under review.

Tesco also appreciates the



Success After Sixty: agency interviewers Michael McPartin and Beryl Davis

reliability and stability of older staff. It has nearly 7,000 staff over 55, although only a few hundred are over 65. The rise will continue now that 70 is the official cut-off year.

Absenteeism among this group is lower than among the under-30s, a spokesman says, noting that the older employees' regard for high standards has a welcome spin-off among younger staff, who often prefer to consult a mature colleague for advice rather than a supervisor.

Asda, which launched a recruitment drive targeting the 50 to 70 age group last November, also expects its age profile to rise in the coming months. Unfortunately, such enlightened attitudes have not permeated society.

"Employers tell me 'we want another five or 10 years' work out of them'. They don't demand that of youngsters," says Yvonne Pedretti, general manager of the West End and City branches of Success After Sixty. This employment agency places about 20 people in work each month in each of its four branches.

Sixty-seven-year-old Joan Ernestine Bagehaw's career as

a senior legal adviser in the Civil Service came to an abrupt and unwelcome end at the age of 65. As a barrister, she was an asset soon snapped up by a "forward-looking trade and technology association" where she is a legal adviser on European Community law.

The increasing amount of work for older people is not arising out of goodwill, but from short-gaps which leave yawning gaps. Among government departments plugging those gaps is the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which has an advertising campaign to entice people out of retirement to become reference secretaries.

These secretaries serve a group of commissioners during inquiries. They need keen minds capable of marshalling extensive evidence. A 63-year-old reference secretary, who wishes to remain unnamed, had previously been forced to retire from a more senior grade in the Civil Service at 60. But he continues working, months at a time, comfortable with the fact that his career

Help for hidden army

More than 2.5 million elderly people are looking after someone older, more ill, more disabled or more frail than themselves (*Pat Blair writes*). Of the estimated six million carers nationally who provide a regular unpaid service to friends or relatives, 42 per cent are over the age of retirement.

Jill Pitkeathly, of the Carers' National Association, which offers advice and support, says that only a decade ago, when she was involved in research into what happened to people being discharged from hospital, the word "carer" was hardly known.

More than 1.5 million carers live with the person they are looking after and of those, 75 per cent are caring for someone elderly. It is not uncommon for someone in their seventies or eighties to be carers for others.

Carers' problems fall into three main categories: financial problems as a direct result of their caring responsibilities; the practical difficulties; and the emotional problems.

On the financial front there are such things as bills for increased heating, wear and tear on carpets and special foods that some people need. "The state benefits carers receive are inadequate," Miss Pitkeathly says. There are also the costs of lost opportunities, with carers having to give up work.

Then there are the practical difficulties of lifting the "patient", dealing with their incontinence and getting even an hour off. Families are over-optimistic: "They seem to feel that caring for an elderly parent with whom they had a difficult relationship is somehow going to mend the relationship. Of course, that doesn't happen and that leads to problems of anger, resentment and guilt," Miss Pitkeathly says.

The King's Fund Carers Unit was set up in London in 1986 to help carers receive more recognition, improve practical support and provide better information about services available. It has produced several publications for carers, including a highly regarded handbook, *Caring at Home*.

What happens when help is not available is illustrated by a recent case involving a mem-

ber of the Carers' Association, a woman looking after two parents aged 96, and an autistic son. "Because of the stress of that, worries about the poll tax and so on, she has had a nervous breakdown and been admitted to hospital."

Most important perhaps is respite care — either as temporary accommodation to

give the carer a break, or a sitting service to let them have an afternoon off.

Last year, the Carers' Unit set up a number of projects in partnership with local health and social service agencies to find new ways to offer flexible and reliable help to carers. A report on its findings is due in 1992.

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CAREELECTRIC

Travel costs of successful defendant in person

No increase in benefit for costs extra to home

The Law Society v Persaud
Before Mr Justice Hobhouse
[Judgment May 8]

A successful defendant was entitled to the cost of travelling from South Africa to England to conduct his case in person and to the reasonable cost of travel between Birmingham and London in connection with the case.

Although a litigant in person could not be allowed the cost of counsel who was not employed, that did not mean the taxing master was required to disallow a disbursement actually incurred so as to avoid the necessity of employing not only a solicitor but also a counsel.

Mr Justice Hobhouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for Norman Ernest Persaud on a review of taxation.

Under 62, rule 18 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided:

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this rule, on any taxation of the costs of a litigant in person there may be allowed such costs as would have been allowed if the work and disbursements to which the costs relate had been done or made by a solicitor on the litigant's behalf."

"(2) The amount allowed in respect of any item shall be such sum as the taxing officer thinks fit but not exceeding, except in the case of a disbursement, two-thirds of the sum which in the opinion of the taxing officer would have been allowed in respect of that item if the litigant had been represented by a solicitor."

Mr Denis Grant, costs draftsman, for the Law Society; Mr Persaud in person.

MR JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said the defendant was living in South Africa and there received

notice of the issue of a writ by the Law Society for the recovery of money allegedly owed under a legal aid certificate.

The plaintiffs had obtained summary judgment and a charging order which the defendant had successfully contested in person.

There remained a dispute between the parties over the disallowance by the taxing master, Master Wright, of various travelling expenses incurred by the defendant.

Those fell into two categories: first, the cost, totalling £1,391.25, of travelling from South Africa to England to defend the action in person; and second, the cost of travelling between Birmingham and London, the reasonable element of which was £74.

The plaintiffs did not suggest that the defendant had been acting in bad faith. They said the disbursements did not come within the terms of Order 62, rule 18(1).

They said no solicitor would ever have been allowed to charge as a disbursement the cost of travelling from South Africa to England since the solicitor would already be in England.

Similarly, the costs of travelling from Birmingham to London would not be allowed to a solicitor because if a solicitor had been instructed it clearly should have been a solicitor in London who would not incur the costs of travelling from Birmingham to London.

The taxing master had accepted the plaintiffs' submissions on those points.

His Lordship accepted that a London solicitor would never be justified in including in his disbursements the cost of travelling from South Africa to Eng-

land or from Birmingham to London for the purpose of attending hearings in London.

But, it was contended, that was not the relevant scenario. The defendant was conducting the litigation himself. He argued that the disbursements were reasonably made because he chose not to instruct a London solicitor.

A course of conduct which reduced the overall costs bill could not be described as unreasonable unless it had some other characteristic which created that unreasonableness; acting in person was not such a characteristic.

The defendant argued that the disbursements were reasonable since they were necessary to enable him to defend the action in person and they had not increased the costs bill which the plaintiffs had had to bear.

The essence of the defendant's submission was that the making of greater disbursements had led to a reduction in so-called "profit" costs which made the disbursements reasonable.

Master Wright had concluded that the defendant had spent a total of 36 hours in respect of hearings, documents, letters and other miscellaneous items and that 4 hours 30 minutes should be allowed for waiting time.

An appropriate rate of £63 an hour and in respect of waiting time £42 an hour giving a total of £2,457.

Under Order 62, rule 18(2) that fell to be reduced by one third, giving a figure after other minor adjustments of £1,643.

His Lordship had been told that the rationale behind that rule was that it represented a rule-of-thumb distinction between the expense rate for a solicitor and the profit rate on

the assumption that the expense rate was given a 50 per cent mark-up to give an appropriate level of profit for a professional firm.

Thus, as a result of acting as an amateur litigator, the defendant had saved the plaintiffs £821.

There was a strong and valid analogy with the situation where a country solicitor, already familiar with the case, chose to do a summons in London rather than employing a London agent and/or counsel to represent his client.

The criterion of reasonableness was not that sufficient to cover the very modest travelling expenses incurred between Birmingham and London.

The situation regarding travel from South Africa to England was not so straightforward. The defendant could not rely on the same logic as the Birmingham to London trips. But he had to find other reasons to justify the remaining £644.25 of the travel costs.

He had to argue that if he had been legally represented, he would have had counsel as well as a solicitor. That raised a more difficult question because he did not have counsel and was not, following the Court of Appeal decision in *Hart v The Aga Khan Foundation* (1984) 1 WLR 994, to be treated as if he notional had had counsel.

It would have been reasonable for him to have been represented by counsel as were the plaintiffs. Would those disbursements have been allowed if made by a solicitor on the litigant's behalf?

His Lordship held that those disbursements capable of recognition as solicitor's disbursements.

There was nothing in the Court of Appeal decision in *Hart v The Aga Khan Foundation* which precluded the taxing master from allowing reasonable disbursements which had in fact been incurred.

Unlike the costs in dispute in *Hart's* case the defendant's disbursements were not notional but were actual and if reasonable and if a solicitor had been employed could and would have been included in a solicitor's bill.

The fact that the Court of Appeal had said one should not allow the cost of counsel who were not employed did not mean that the taxing master was required to disallow a disbursement actually incurred so as to avoid the necessity of employing not only a solicitor but also counsel.

Here the taxing master had approached the matter in too literal a fashion. On the facts of the present case the costs sought to be recovered by the defendant did not exceed what would have been the actual costs and disbursements allowable to a London solicitor.

If one translated the situation to that of a litigant in person resident in, say, Manchester or Sheffield having to defend and represent himself in proceedings in London, to assert that he should not be allowed to include as a disbursement the actually incurred cost of travelling from his home town to London to attend hearings was to introduce an absurdity and manifest injustice.

There was still an overall saving to the other side as a result of the relevant party having chosen to represent himself.

Solicitors: Penningtons for Carlson & Co. Whetstone.

Pearce v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Bingham [Judgment May 8]

Supplementary benefit payments, now income support, for the board and lodging costs of those living in residential care homes could not be increased so as to cover the cost of additional services required by a claimant that were not provided by the home.

Regulation 9(4A) of the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1399), introduced by the amendment in paragraph 2 of the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Amendment and Upgrading Regulations (SI 1987 No 659), did not permit increased payments for separate charges for services provided by third parties.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the claimant, Mr S. E. C. Pearce, from a decision of the Social Security Commissioner, Mr D. G. Rice, refusing his claim for his supplementary benefit to be increased.

Regulation 9(4A) provides: "Where in addition to the weekly amount for board and lodging in a nursing or residential care home, as calculated in accordance with paragraph (4), a separate charge is made for the provision of heating, attendance, extra baths, laundry, any special diet, or domestic assistance, the weekly amount for board and lodging shall be increased by the amount of that charge."

Mr Richard Drabble for the claimant; Miss Geneva Caws for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised a question of construction on regulation 9(4A). Although supplementary benefit was replaced by income support in 1988, the same question could still arise.

The claimant and his wife, who were both in poor health, lived in Treavor House, Camborne, an establishment

run by the Abbeyfield Society.

They were provided with accommodation and midday and evening meals. It was a "residential care home" for the purposes of the 1983 Regulations.

In 1987 an adjudication officer had decided that the claimant was entitled to supplementary benefit in an amount sufficient to meet the cost of board and lodging.

However, the claimant challenged the amount of that benefit on the ground that it made no allowance for the cost to him of laundry, attendance and domestic assistance for his wife and for a special diet for himself.

Those services were not provided by Treavor House but by third parties to whom the claimant made payment direct.

In June 1988 an appeal tribunal gave a decision in favour of the claimant, holding that under regulation 9(4A) the weekly amount for board and lodging could be increased to cover his additional costs.

Against that decision the adjudication officer appealed to the Social Security Commissioner who in July 1989 allowed the appeal. He held that regulation 9(4A) did not allow the weekly amount to be increased to cover the additional costs.

The scheme of the Supplementary Benefit Act 1976 and the regulations made pursuant thereto was that there was a general entitlement to benefit if a claimant's resources were insufficient to meet his requirements, the amount of the benefit being the amount of the shortfall.

Since 1987 the general rule was that a person in residential care was not entitled to claim for additional requirements but only for normal requirements.

Regulation 9 dealt with the amount of the normal requirements of "boarders" who included persons paying charges inclusive of their accommodation and at least some meals. The claimant and his wife met that description.

"Normal requirements" included a weekly amount for board and lodging which was to be determined in accordance

with regulation 9(4) and (4A).

The claimant, having paid separately for laundry, attendance and special diet, might be thought, as he contended, to have paid separate charges for the provisions of the services within paragraph (4A).

But the adjudication officer throughout had maintained that that provision only applied to charges made by those who provided the board and lodging and it could not be one made by a third party.

The commissioner had evidence that the claimant was not the proprietor of the home, he was unable to call upon the proprietors to provide them whereas had the home been prepared to co-operate, he would have recovered under regulation 9(4A).

Surely, the criterion should be, not the agency by which the relevant services were provided, but the genuineness of the need for such services.

That view was no doubt one to which attention should be given by those who had responsibility for administering the regulations.

It had been a considerable comfort for the court to hear from Miss Caws that there might be another route, namely the transitional provisions in paragraph 6 of the 1987 Amendment Regulations that introduced a new regulation 13A into the 1983 Requirements Regulations, by which the claimant's position could to some extent be made good.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Bingham gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Sinclair Taylor & Martin, North Kensington; Solicitor, DHSS.

Admissibility of scared witness's evidence in writing

Regina v Acton Justices, Ex parte McMillen and Others
Regina v Tower Bridge Justices, Ex parte Lawlor
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Poole [Judgment May 3]

A statement in writing given by a witness was admissible in criminal proceedings as evidence of any fact of which direct oral evidence by him would be admissible where the witness was unable to give the evidence through fear, whether arising as a result of the circumstances of the offence or acts or words occurring subsequently.

While the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 allowing the reception of such statements were novel and had released an ugly horse, any danger of a flood of written evidence pouring into the criminal courts to the detriment of the defendant was adequately restrained by the process of judgment and discretion to which it was subject.

Once it had been found that the witness could not give the evidence through fear and the stipulations of section 23(3) of the Act had been satisfied, its admissibility was not subject to any discretion, although whether it was admitted or not remained so. The provisions of the Act covered old style committal proceedings as well as those at trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when refusing applications for judicial

review by Christopher McMillen, David Burke and Raymond Canning of the decision of Acton Justices, and of Jason Lawlor of the decision of the Tower Bridge Metropolitan Magistrate, by which they ruled inadmissible in the Criminal Justice Act 1988 statements in writing at old style committal proceedings, under section 6 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980.

Section 23 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) ... a statement made by a person in a document shall be admissible in criminal proceedings as evidence of any fact of which direct oral evidence by him would be admissible if ... (ii) the requirements of subsection (3) ... are satisfied."

The requirements in subsection (1)(ii) are: — (a) that the statement was made to a police officer or some other person charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders; and (b) that the person who made it does not give oral evidence through fear or because he is kept out of the way."

Mr Elikios Georgiades for Lawlor; Mr Andrew Campbell-Tech for McMillen, Burke and Canning; Mr David Howard Evans for the DPP.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the provisions in Part II of the 1988 Act, where section 23(3) occurred, were in some part novel.

The purpose of Part II was to stipulate the conditions governing the admissibility of a statement in a document and its admission to evidence so as to obviate the necessity for its maker to give oral evidence of its contents.

The effect of the conditions, generally speaking, was to come to the court first to decide whether the statement in question should be admissible having regard to the conditions in section 23.

If the statement was ruled admissible the court then had to decide under section 25 (that did not apply to committal proceedings) in respect of the matters contained in section 23(2), whether the statements nevertheless ought not to be admitted under section 26, which clearly did apply to committal proceedings; note the reference to "any proceedings", or in respect of matters within section 23(3) to decide whether, notwithstanding its admissibility, the court was of the opinion that the statement ought not to be admitted.

Whatever else might be seen to present difficulties for the court in those provisions there was no doubt, in his Lordship's view, that the dual tests, admissibility and whether or not it was to be admitted, which had to be applied before a statement was admitted and read, the court would, in many circumstances call for the most careful and scrupulous exercise of judgment and discretion.

Moreover, there could be no doubt that the criminal standard of proof had to be applied to subsections (2) and (3).

It was apparent that Parliament had thereby set loose one or two unruly horses which its courts would have to be vigilant to control.

Mr Georgiades maintained that in section 23(3)(b) "fear" and "because he is kept out of the way" should be read conjunctively. That being so, the subsection should be taken to mean that the Crown could not succeed in applying to read a witness statement unless it established that something had occurred since the commission of the offence which had put the witness in such fear as effectively to be kept out of the way.

Counsel for Lawlor submitted that the fear had to be genuine and based on reasonable grounds and the test was objective not subjective. His Lordship did not agree.

It was not helpful in the context to speak of the objective or subjective test. It would be sufficient that the court, on the evidence, was sure that the witness was in fear, as a consequence of the material offence or of something said or done subsequently in relation to it and the possibility of the witness testifying as to it.

It had been said that the stipendiary justice had not acted in accordance with section 26; indeed he had said in his statement he had not considered the section at all. He clearly should have done but the court was not concerned with that decision would nonetheless have been the same.

Solicitors: Powell, Magrath & Spencer, Kilburn; Murrays, Southwark; CFS, Queen Anne's Gate.

Mr Georgiades had referred their Lordships to *Hansard* on the debate in Parliament on the provisions. While his Lordship had reservations about looking at *Hansard* for the purpose of discovering what Parliament intended legislation to mean, he had done so but without deriving from that such assistance as claimed by Mr Georgiades.

That was very largely because the words "fear" and "because he is kept out of the way" were not used in his Lordship's judgment, as plain as a pikestaff and cried out loud to be read disjunctively.

There were two unruly horses, one named "fear" and the other "kept out of the way".

Mr Moser accepted that as a matter of ordinary language the words "let by him as residential accommodation" were apt to include such lettings as had been made by the taxpayer in the present case.

But, he said, those words had to be read in the context of the relief given by section 101 of the 1979 Act and so construed did not extend to hotel lettings. The social purpose behind section 80, he said, was to extend relief to taxpayers who had surplus accommodation which they let out to persons to use as their home.

Doubtless the words "residential accommodation" were construed in that context that included the provisions of section 101. But there was nothing in section 101 that required the ordinary meaning of those words to be displaced.

The concept of a "home" in section 101 was not to be construed by the draftsman's use of the words "dwelling house" used as a taxpayer's "only or main residence".

No reasonably similar word had been used in section 80 of the 1980 Act. Had the draftsman wanted to introduce that provision the concept of the accommodation being used as a home he would have used language to make that plain. Instead he had used wholly different language — words that used in their ordinary sense had a totally different meaning and effect.

Moreover, there was no reason why it was to be assumed that because the relief given by section 101 was only granted in respect of a taxpayer's home that the further relief in section 80 should be limited to lettings to third parties of accommodation to be used as their homes.

The language of section 80 was such that the lettings of the hotel accommodation by the taxpayer within the meaning of the words "residential accommodation" and that accordingly the general commission's determination was erroneous in point of law and the taxpayer's claim should be allowed.

Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Winter & Co. Eastbourne; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Winter & Co. Eastbourne; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Sargeant and Another v National Westminster Bank plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Bingham and Sir George Waller [Judgment May 4]

Trustees for sale of land of which they themselves held agricultural tenancies could properly sell the freeholds subject to the existing tenancies.

The rule that a trustee must not put himself in a position where his interest and duty conflicted did not apply where he had been put in that position by the testator under whose disposition the trust had arisen.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, National Westminster Bank plc and Mrs Kathleen Sargeant, the executors of a deceased beneficiary, from the judgment in February 1989 of Mr Justice Hoffmann who had held that the plaintiff trustees, Mr Joseph Sargeant and Mrs Hilda Reece, were entitled to sell the freeholds without relinquishing their tenancies.

Mr Ian Romer for the defendants; Mr David M. Burton for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the rule that a trustee must not profit from his trust held that prevention was better than cure. While the rule invariably required that a profit should be yielded up, it prevented intervention beforehand by dissolving the connection out of which the profit might be made.

At that stage the rule was expressed by saying that a trustee must not put himself in a position where his interest and duty conflicted. But to express it in that way was to acknowledge that if he was put there, not by himself, but by the testator or settlor under whose dispositions his trust arose, the rule did not apply.

The testator had died in 1969. The plaintiffs, two of his children, as the trustees of his will were the legal owners and trustees for sale of his three freehold farms.

Under the terms of the will each of them was absolutely entitled to one-third of the net proceeds of sale. They were also

the tenants of the farms under tenancies which the testator had originally granted to them and to their brother, Charles, who had died in an air crash in 1974. All of the land had until 1974 been farmed by the three children in partnership.

The defendants, the owners of the remaining third of the beneficial interest, subject to the tenancies, were the personal representatives of Charles.

The will contained an express power for a trustee to purchase trust property. The plaintiffs now wished to purchase the freehold of the largest farm and sell the other two for development.

The defendants, relying on the rule that a trustee must not put himself in a position where his interest and duty conflicted, sought declarations that the plaintiffs were not entitled to sell to themselves or to a third party, so long as their tenancies subsisted.

Mr Justice Hoffmann, rejecting the defendants' claim, said of the plaintiffs: "As tenants they are under no duty to move out, whatever they may be offered and whether that would be reasonable or not. As landlords and trustees they are only sell what they have, which is the freehold interest subject to the tenancies."

"Consequently, the plaintiffs are ... entitled to sell the freehold subject to the agricultural tenancies, and are under no duty because they happen themselves to be the tenants to cooperate in its sale in any other way."

Relying on the judgment of Lord Herschell in *Bray v Ford* (1896) AC 441, which had been cited in *Phipps v Boardman* (1967) 2 AC 46, 123 as the best statement of the rule, Mr Romer submitted that the plaintiffs' duty was to obtain the best price for the freeholds of the farms which, admittedly, could only be obtained by a sale with vacant possession, whereas the plaintiffs' interest was to preserve their tenancies and to sell subject to them in which event the best price would not be obtained.

Therefore, Mr Romer said, if the plaintiffs went ahead and

sold subject to the tenancies, either to themselves or to a third party, they would be putting themselves in a position where their interest and duty conflicted.

Those submissions made it necessary for the origins of the trustees' rights and duties to be considered. Between the testator's death and Charles's death, each child was tenant trustee and beneficiary in common with the others. Although each had the duties of a trustee, he or she also had the rights of a tenant and a beneficiary.

On Charles's death his estate retained his beneficial interest in the farms, subject to the tenancies. The estate could have retained his interest in the tenancies but under the partnership deed to which Charles had been a party, the plaintiffs had acquired his share in the tenancies.

Thenceforth, each of the plaintiffs continued to have the rights of a tenant and a beneficiary. But Charles's estate only had the rights of a beneficiary.

Doubtless, since Charles's death, the plaintiffs had been in a position where their interests as tenants might have conflicted with their duties as trustees to the estate of Charles.

But the conclusive objection to the application of the absolute rule relied on by Mr Romer was that it was not they who had put themselves in that position. They had been put there mainly by the testator's grant of the tenancies and by the provisions of his will and partly by the contractual arrangements to which Charles had been a party and of which his representatives could not complain.

There was, in any event, no bar to the plaintiffs selling to themselves. But they had to continue to discharge their fiduciary duties to Charles's estate, in particular by obtaining the best price for the freeholds subject to the tenancies.

The decision of Mr Justice Hoffmann was correct and the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Bingham and Sir George Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Howes Fenwick, Northampton; Edwin Coe for Woodcock & Thompson, Northampton.

Capital gains tax relief on sale of seaside guest house

Owen v Elliott (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Leggatt [Judgment April 27]

A gain on the sale of a private residence used in part as a seaside guest house qualified for the relief from capital gains tax given by section 80 of the Finance Act 1980.

The rooms, although used mainly for short-term visits, were nevertheless let by the taxpayer as "residential accommodation" within the meaning of the relieving provisions.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Peter Edwin Owen, from the judgment of Mr Justice Millett (*The Times* November 29, 1988; (1989) 1 WLR 162) in which he gave a determination of the Pevensy general commission's decision that had dismissed the taxpayer's appeal against an assessment of £22,835.

Section 80 of the 1980 Act provides for some relief from capital gains tax (1) in respect of a gain on the sale of a dwelling house situated in the United Kingdom (2) if the dwelling house was used as a private residence at any time during the period of ownership.

The main hotel building contained ten bedrooms, kitchen and lounge. An annex to it had two bedrooms, lounge and kitchen.

Two types of guests came to the hotel: those during the summer season for short stays of two weeks or less and in the low season visitors, generally from abroad, who stayed on average three to four months.

During the summer the taxpayer and his family had occupied the annex but during the winter months had lived in the whole of the building together with their guests, who were rarely more than one or two.

In 1982 the hotel was sold. The taxpayer had agreed with the tax inspector that one-third of the gain on that sale would be treated as exempt from capital gains tax under the provisions in sections 101 and 102 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

Those sections conferred the exemption on gains accruing to individuals so far as attributable to the disposal of a dwelling house which had at any time of their occupation been their only or main residence.

The taxpayer's claim was for section 80. It had been refused by the commission.

Upholding their determination and accepting the Crown's argument, Mr Justice Millett had held that that relief was only available where the accommodation was let by a taxpayer to persons likely to use it as their home.

He had said: "The relief would normally be available to the home owner who provides lodgings for university students or accommodation for hospital

question or any part of it is or has at any time in his period of ownership been wholly or partly let by him as residential accommodation ..."

Mr Giles Goodfellow for the taxpayer; Mr Alan Moses, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the words "let by him as residential accommodation" in section 80(1), which had the meaning of the words "let by him as residential accommodation" in section 80(1).

The taxpayer and his wife had purchased Glenageary Hotel, Eastbourne, jointly in 1976 and had carried on a business of private hotel/boarding house on the premises.

They received guests

● MEDICINE: SKIN CANCER DIAGNOSIS
● TECHNOLOGY: 'NEW AGE' CROFTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

One small step is a giant leap in vision

Microrobots doing internal body repairs may seem futuristic but the reality is close, Phillip Campbell says

Nanotechnology is a burgeoning scientific field that suggests exciting possibilities, ranging from microrobots inside the body performing surgery to those used in the atmosphere attacking pollutants. Scientists have even talked of using them as microscopic troops, penetrating enemy computers, or sabotaging leader's brains. But such futuristic speculation tends to detract from the reality of nanotechnology which is in use today in such areas as highly-precise engineering.

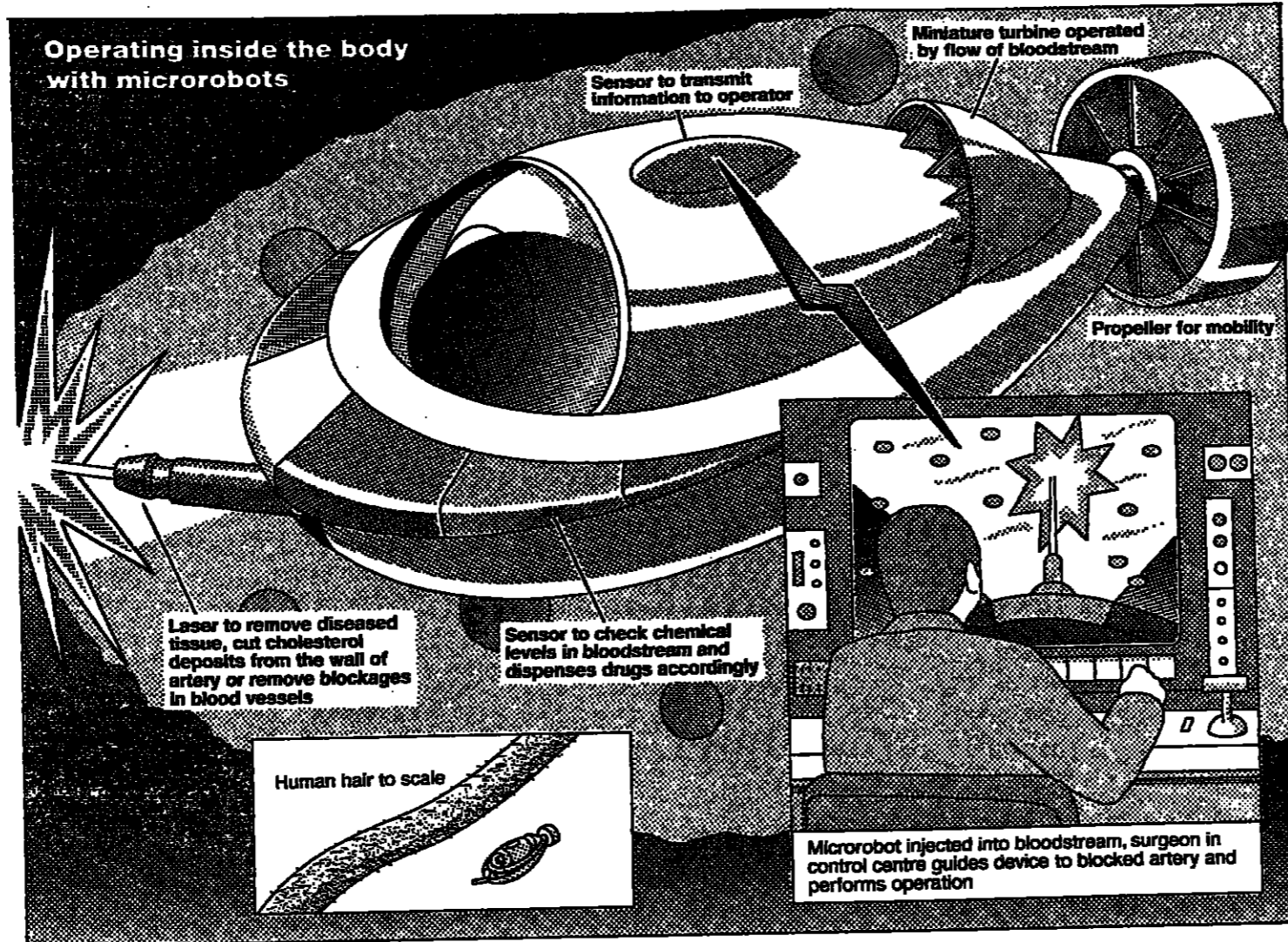
Nanotechnology is the ability to shape and use materials at scales as small as individual atoms. The "nano" prefix refers to the unit of size known as the nanometre, or one thousandth of a millionth of a metre. This is about three times the distance between atoms in everyday materials — and, with the help of new devices, some scientists have begun to manipulate substances, atom by atom.

A group of Canadian biomedical engineers, with the help of a unique "tele-microrobot" that converts directions to submicroscopic movement, has been able to mechanically test fibres by pulling, twisting and manipulating the internal parts of muscle cells. Though manipulating atoms may seem a pipedream, the fact remains that if several strands of nanotechnology now in use fulfil their potential, micromachines — including microrobots — could become reality.

Next week Japanese and American experts will join British speakers at an Institute of Physics conference at the Royal Festival Hall in London that will explain why academia, industry and governments in Europe, North America and Japan are taking a keen interest in the discipline.

The developing ability to work at or below the nanometre scale has already opened up a new field of technology. Unhappily for the proselytizers of the discipline, these have been mainly in the fields of integrated circuits and high-precision machining — worthy enough, but hardly the stuff to fire the taxpayer's imagination.

Perhaps that is why so much is made of the highly futuristic visions of some nanotechnologists. The hype is often dangerously hard to distinguish from possible reality. Onlookers are apt to be reminded of other technologies that were eventually marred in the public eye by premature exaggeration.



WHEN FICTION MEETS REALITY: MOVES TOWARDS ANOTHER FANTASTIC VOYAGE

TWENTY-FIVE years after the film, *Fantastic Voyage*, in which doctors and a submarine were reduced to microscopic size, and injected into the human bloodstream to perform a brain operation, scientists believe it may eventually be possible to send miniaturized robots on similar errands.

Futuristic but feasible projects could include machines only a millionth of a metre long,

performing a range of extraordinary tasks within the body, pursuing viruses and attacking cancer cells, cleaning up cholesterol from arteries and dissolving blood clots.

They might be equipped with turbines driven by the flow of the bloodstream, and armed with cutting tools, diagnostic and imaging systems. They could carry transmitters to relay information back to doctors at control desks.

Another version could be an "intelligent pill" which, once injected, carries out chemical analyses of the blood and decides if and when drugs should be released, aimed at specific parts of the body.

According to the US National Science Foundation, such innovations are no longer technological daydreams, but worthy of serious study.

(Remember the promises of unlimited free energy when early atomic reactors were inaugurated?) It seems now that the future of nanotechnology risks suffering from public scepticism bred of today's hype.

The fanciful projections aside, where is nanotechnology now? The Canadian muscle-testing machine, developed by Dr Ian Hunter and colleagues at McGill University in Montreal, is one of the leading examples of microrobotics. The machine is of a normal size, but works with nanometre precision using its robotic attributes.

The project's aim is understanding the mechanical behaviour of the proteins that do the work

within muscle fibres. The machine has "actuators", such as linear motors, to produce tiny forces or movements; sensors to receive laser light reflected from the manipulated object so that the effects of the robot's actions can be monitored; and a "brain" — a computer that can independently co-ordinate simultaneous movements of the robot's limbs. A parallel system of controls allows humans to take the driving seat if so desired.

Dr Hunter foresees the relatively cumbersome machinery that drives his robot getting larger, not smaller; his principal aim is to provide more range in the manipulations. This is in sharp

contrast to the microminiaturization of an entire system for a "bloodstream robot" or "intelligent dust".

Already, for example, the large electronics manufacturers around the world are undertaking billion pound research programmes to generate the microchip of the future, consisting of nano-sized features etched into innovative semiconductor compounds.

New markets are expanding with the high-precision mechanical engineering tools that are being developed. The ability to make ultra-smooth surfaces with nanometre tolerances will, for example, open up a new range of devices used to reflect and focus X-

rays. Optical technology such as compact disc memories and holography also require nano-scale precision for best performance. As for mechanical microengineering, the accepted rule is that the smaller the device, the tougher it is and the faster it can act; innovative applications now being explored include pressure sensors, printing, displays, telecommunications and medical equipment.

These examples highlight the key aspect of nanotechnology that has encouraged many governments to support its development: the large number of potential applications spanning several industrial sectors.

The most fun can be had in imagining the possibilities for com-

pletely new machines that such developments bring into prospect. In 1988, the highly respectable US National Science Foundation produced an influential report that identified a list of feasible applications, resulting from systems and components likely to be in use within a few years, including, in medicine:

- "smart pills" in which sensors are combined with dose-regulating drug dispensers;
- silicon micro-connectors for repairing blood vessels;
- catheter-based ultrasonic medical diagnosis;
- sensor-controlled valves and filters for use in artificial organs.

So what are the capabilities of today's nanotechnologists and micro-machinists? The working material for most is silicon, for two reasons: first, it can be obtained in pure crystalline form, so that, no matter how small the artefact, one is not impeded by structural or other defects. Secondly, the methods used in the semiconductor industry for integrating millions of electronic components on silicon chips matches the engineering needs for the microtechnologies.

Today the construction of free-moving jointed structure, such as interacting gear wheels or linked crankshafts, is possible on a similar microscopic scale.

Meanwhile, microengineers are beginning to learn how to incorporate metal contacts in such devices so that electric fields can be used to drive them. The most celebrated example is an "electrostatic motor" one-tenth of a millimetre in diameter, built at the Sensor and Actuator Centre at Berkeley, California.

No doubt such devices will appear hopelessly primitive in only a few years. But the key to the more outlandish ambitions of microrobotics will be the "brains" in micromachines.

Semiconductor technology at present could never accomplish the degree of close packing that the powerful microrobotics' internal computers would need.

But some experts are speculating that in the early decades of the next century, "quantum coupled circuit" technology, exploiting the ability of electrons to tunnel across barriers without need of physical connections, could lead to a million-million devices — numbers characteristic of today's most powerful computers — being integrated to a single chip.

Even one decade is a long time in science and technology. Given successes already achieved and the large number of avenues being explored, one would be foolish to swear that the "nano-hype" of today will never become the "nano-reality" of tomorrow.

● The author is editor of *Physics World*.

Progress that is skin deep

A sense of touch may create a breed of robot-butlers

AN artificial skin for robots that mimics human skin is being designed by engineers. The inventors believe the development may hasten the science-fiction age of robot-butlers by allowing robots to "feel". Although they can work on a production line, they cannot automatically switch grips to suit different items.

Robot-butlers need to be able to distinguish automatically between, say, a dishcloth and an egg. The answer, researchers at the University of Pisa in Italy believe, could lie in a "smart" skin. They have designed one that structurally resembles human skin and senses in the way it does.

Living skin consists of two thin layers — the dermis and the epidermis. In the material being designed by the university's Dr Danilo De Rossi, the artificial dermis is made of a water-swollen gel bounded by two layers of electrodes.

The human dermis senses pressure by nerves monitoring the amount the dermis is deformed. The artificial version works in a similar way, with the voltage between the two layers of electrodes altering as more pressure is placed on the gel.

For the epidermis (upper layer), Dr De Rossi has resorted to an outer and lower rubber sheeting between which are sandwiched tiny, highly sensitive, disc-shaped piezoelectric sensors.

Piezoelectric sensors can produce an electric charge under extremely light pressures, such as those experienced when a hand encounters bumps on Braille text.

The main advantage of the Pisa system over rivals is that its epidermis can "feel" friction forces and pressures sliding across its surface.

Whether the invention will become practical depends as much on the skin as on the development of a computer capable of processing data generated by the sensors.

The skin is far from perfect: a short-circuiting difficulty is proving hard to combat. It seems that the water in the dermis is interfering with the smooth working of the sensors.

Nick Nuttall

First, but not always equal

Researchers are divided on the theory that birth order can influence behaviour

time when the idea that birth order leads to differences in behaviour is under fierce attack by social scientists.

Despite the attacks, the birth-order concept is an idea that refuses to die. His findings, announced in February, have sparked controversy even though they are yet to be published.

Professor Sulloway's study is perhaps the most elaborate among the continuing efforts of dozens of researchers to find a link between birth order and such things as managerial ability, drug abuse, criminality, and teenage pregnancies.

In 1988 and 1989, there were 45 scientific reports on birth order, more than a third of which found it had no effect.

In studies now under way,

Professor Sulloway, a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says he is finding the same birth-order effect at work among social reformers in historical movements, such as the abolition of slavery, civil rights, union organizing and women's rights.

His analysis is based on a study of 2,784 participants in 28 major scientific controversies in the past 400 years. He included major developments in science as well as some obscure ones. The main criterion was whether enough remained in the historical record about the scientific debate to evaluate the main participant.

Of the 28 scientific revolutions, 23 were led by later-borns. And in those with a

first-born as the leader — Einstein and Newton, for example — their prominent allies were for the most part later-borns.

"The overall probability that a first-born will support a scientific revolution is 34 per cent; the odds that a late-born will do so are almost double at 64 per cent," Professor Sulloway says.

Judith Blake, a sociologist at the University of California, says: "I am sceptical of any reported effect for birth order. People get excited by the idea of birth order, but when you look at it scientifically, it evaporates."

In July, she published data showing that for 113,000 people, the order of birth made no difference in how far they went in school or how intelligent they were.

"What matters instead," she says, "is how large a family one comes from. What had seemed to be birth-order effects were artefacts. The real effect was due to parents' characteristics — the lower the social class and the less educated the parents, the bigger the family."

Daniel Goleman

Mapping out vehicle navigation

We soon may be able to throw away our 'A to Z' as we travel from A to B

A NEW car navigation system which offers drivers colour-coded maps of an area and its roads has been developed by engineers. The system, called AVIC-1, allows a driver to select from five levels of detail provided by satellite. (Nick Autall writes).

Also included in the display are names and locations of restaurants, hotels and entertainment centres with details on services they provide.

The system was developed by the Japanese Pioneer Electronic Corporation. The system is expected to be

available in June, but will only be marketed in Japan.

At the heart of the AVIC-1 are special compact discs which carry information for the maps and are linked with the vehicle's music system.

The car's location is calculated by satellite which returns the signal via the vehicle's antenna. The location is displayed on a 4-in colour screen as a red dot superimposed on a map.

Pioneer says the system is accurate to within 65-100ft. It can operate when the vehicle is moving or stationary.

The system is expected to sell for just under £2,000. Toru Yokomizo, a spokesman for Pioneer, says the system could be installed in trucks and helicopters.

The announcement of the new satellite car navigation system comes as the British Government completes licensing procedures for two in-car traffic information and navigation systems in the run-up to their commercial launch.

Trafficmaster, developed by General Logistics of Luton, Bedfordshire, gives drivers up-to-the-minute information on congested and jammed motorways. It uses infra-red sensors on motorway bridges to monitor traffic flows, beam- ing details of speeds below

25mph to a central computer. Staff then relay news of trouble spots to subscribers through the VHF radiopaging network, Aircall. A pager unit in the car decodes the signal and displays information on the unit's screen.

The company plans to have Trafficmaster in operation by August. It will cover an area within a 35-mile radius of London. National coverage is expected to be in under way by spring, 1993.

The other British scheme licensed this week is GEC's Autoguide — a route planner for motorists unfamiliar with their location or with roads on an intended journey.

It is believed the GEC system, set for launch in a few years, could do away with the need for traditional maps.

A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday that, although only two systems would be licensed this week, the department would consider other proposals.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New tape puts trade in a spin

Philips' latest audio offering may be welcomed by music buffs, but it is likely to upset industry leaders in Japan

A new type of audio tape, called Digital Compact Cassette (DCC), is expected to be announced by the Dutch electronics company Philips later this month (George Cole and Matthew May write).

The tape will look like an ordinary audio cassette and will play on conventional home hi-fi systems, personal stereos and in-car players. However, it will also carry a hidden digital signal that will give better sound quality on a new generation of digital cassette players.

Although the sound quality of the digital track is not expected to be quite as high as that of a compact disc, it has the twin advantages of being compatible with the current audio tape format and also relatively cheap.

The development of DCC could be good news for audio buffs, but it has already created divisions between European and Japanese electronics companies.

The Japanese have produced a rival system known as Digital Audio Tape or DAT. This uses cassettes the size of a credit card to store two hours of high-quality digital sound.

But that is expensive, the players cost about £1,000 and the tape is not compatible with the millions of audio cassette decks already in use. It also means that software companies, which produce music tapes, would have to make two versions of the same cassette.

So far, Philips is refusing to talk about DCC because it is still negotiating with music software companies but, according to one senior Philips manager, DCC will shift the balance of power between Europe and Japan.

"For a long time, whenever Europe has gone into a meet-

ing with Japan, we have been psychologically beaten before we have even sat down. Now the boot is on the other foot," he says.

While Japanese consumer electronics companies are clearly unhappy about DCC, Philips hopes music companies will be more enthusiastic. The music industry has already delayed the launch of DAT in Europe because it feared it would be used to make perfect copies of compact discs.

But Philips is believed to have calmed the music companies' fears by telling them it will build an anti-copy system into the DCC format. The company is also in the music business as well — it owns the Polygram record company.

Another claim which may wipe out digital audio tape before it even arrives has been made by a designer at the Paisley College of Technology in Scotland who says he has invented a cheap system to produce hiss-free tapes which will work on ordinary cassette recorders and players.

The developer of the new tape, Archie Pettigrew, says it will give virtually the same quality as a compact disc, but will cost little more than normal cassettes.

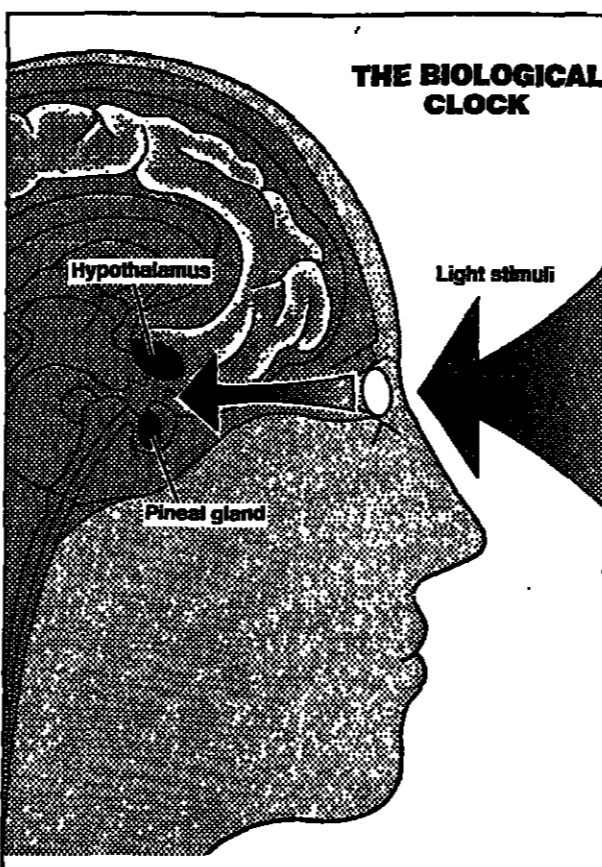
"The hiss is there because of a recording system known as AC biasing which has previously been thought vital to ease distortion," Mr Pettigrew says. "Engineers have never considered recording without it because they believed tapes would be unlistenable if AC biasing wasn't used."

Instead of AC biasing, Mr Pettigrew uses a system called contour biasing, based on mathematical theory. The first examples of the system can be produced if it is used with pre-recorded tapes because the reduced hiss can be heard when they are played on existing cassette machines.

Providing domestic users with decks that can record with the new system should only add about £5 to their cost, Mr Pettigrew says. He is now looking for backers for a new system in the hope that it could be on sale in the shops by Christmas.

Research dispels thinking that human body clocks are insensitive to light

New light on jet lag



The biological clock is situated in the hypothalamus and the pineal gland, which produce the sleep-inducing hormone, melatonin. The hormone is secreted only in darkness, but can be suppressed when light stimuli to the eyes are transmitted along pathways of the brain.

Scientists have succeeded in readjusting the human biological clock in a research project which could help overcome the problems of night shift workers, reduce jet lag, and cut the risk of industrial accidents.

The results of an experiment at Harvard University Medical School, in the United States, are being hailed as a crucial advance by Dr Charles Czeisler, a leading expert in the growing science of "chronobiology". (Pearce Wright and Thomson Prentice write).

The findings, reported in this week's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, challenge the long-held belief that, unlike most animals and plants, the human body clock is insensitive to light, but is reset by social stimuli.

Dr Czeisler and colleagues showed that exposing volunteers to bright light can induce physiological changes which help shift workers adapt more easily to working at night and sleeping during the day.

The research adds weight to the question of whether industrial and work-related accidents are more prevalent in the early hours of the morning at a time when the alertness of some employees may be diminished.

Eight healthy young men took part in a series of two-week studies at the Centre for Circadian and Sleep Disorders, at Harvard. They reported for "work" at the laboratory, where half of them spent from midnight until 8am sitting at desks in front of very bright fluorescent lights, while the other half sat in normal lighting for the same period.

They had to carry out tasks, including mathematical calculations, to assess their alertness. The "bright-light" group went home to sleep in bedrooms where the windows were draped with material blocking out all daylight, while the others slept in rooms with curtains, but no special window coverings.

Dr Czeisler said that tests of the volunteers' body temperatures, hormones and mental functions showed that the bright-light group adjusted within four nights to their altered shifts, but the others did not.

He said that even after years of permanent night shifts, or a rotation of day, evening and night duties, many workers

fail to adapt physiologically. Consequently, they were at increased risk of heart disease, ulcers, gastro-intestinal illnesses, serious sleep disorders, and infertility problems among women.

Other studies have shown that one in five people cannot tolerate shift work, and that two out of three night workers either had chronic insomnia or admitted to falling asleep on the job at least once a week.

Dr Czeisler's bright-light technique appears to have reset the biological clock, located in the hypothalamus, a tiny area of the brain involved

in the secretion of hormones. Among these is the sleep-inducing substance, melatonin, which is secreted only in darkness and whose production is controlled by the presence or absence of direct-light stimulus to the eyes.

Thus, the bright-light volunteers stayed lively and alert through the night because their melatonin was suppressed, and slept better during the day because the hormone was encouraged by the black-out effects in their bedrooms.

Special office lighting systems and other adjustments could make it easier for night-shift workers to adapt, Dr

Czeisler said. Such improvements could have a profound effect on industrial, and even military, safety.

According to a recent article in *Flight International*, US Air Force pilots flying almost exclusively at night on the top-secret Lockheed F-117A "stealth" fighter became apprehensive of sunrise.

They were anxious about getting to sleep when they landed, and rushed for the shelter of their blacked-out rooms.

"You would have thought you were at a vampire's convention as daybreak approached," a senior Lockheed executive was quoted as saying.

Dr Czeisler is also looking at the implications of his research into the treatment of conventional jet lag, and has discussed with two airlines the question of installing special lights in cabins for long-haul flights.

Harvard researchers believe that passengers can get much the same benefit by spending specific hours in daylight at their destinations.

The same theory is behind the launch last month of a British invention, the Bioclock.

This is a pocket-size computer which calculates the precise amount of exposure to daylight which it is said is needed to compensate for the effects of long flights across time zones.

Passengers enter into the £80 device the times of their flight departure and arrival, duration of the trip, and whether the direction is westwards or eastwards.

They can check exactly when they should be in light or shade, say inventors Christine Lenihan and Dr Peter Bick.

At travel across time zones lengthens or shortens passengers' "daytime", confusing the body's timetable and provoking the jet lag symptoms of fatigue, indigestion, lack of concentration and impaired physical responses.

Other researchers are investigating the possibilities of a melatonin pill to overcome jet lag.

Dr Josephine Arendt, of Surrey University, has shown that melatonin treatment benefits volunteer passengers.

She is now assessing its effects on men working at Britain's Antarctic research station, where the disappearance of the sun for three months every winter disrupts their circadian rhythms.

Dolphins join navy



An American plan to use trained dolphins as security guards at a nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Washington has been delayed for several months following an agreement between the US Navy and animal rights advocates to conduct environmental studies into their use. The navy was given permission in 1987 to capture as many as 25 dolphins a year without supervision under animal protection laws to train them to protect Trident submarines from underwater intruders. In a separate document, the navy has also agreed to stop capturing the marine mammals until it completes a formal study of the impact of taking dolphins from the wild.

Cancer deaths

A study of more than 6,000 cancer victims in Sweden has found women had a 22 per cent lower death rate than men from the disease, apparently because female sex hormones prevented cancer from spreading. However, according to the study by the University hospital in Uppsala and published in the *American Medical Association's journal*, the finding is not true for all forms of cancer. The study covered 6,262 Swedes who were diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20 between 1960 and 1984. Before the age of 11 both sexes ran a similar risk of death but after the women became sexually mature, at age 12, their death rate dropped, the study reported.

The full facts

A facsimile machine which can transmit copies in full colour will go on sale in Japan this autumn at a cost of £14,000. But the developer, Sharp, says it has not decided when to sell the machine abroad because of concern that other countries may find it too expensive and may also lack the high quality telephone lines it needs. Japanese advertising agencies, magazines and printers have expressed interest in the new fax as a way to transmit photographs quickly and easily for publication. The machine, which uses a four-colour heat

BRIEFING

sensitive ribbon, takes three minutes to transmit an 8 inch by 10 inch (20cm by 25cm) high quality copy of a colour photograph.

Hacker outcry

As the Private Member's Bill against computer hacking completed its passage through the Commons last Friday, hardliners in America criticized what they saw as too soft a sentence on the infamous US hacker Robert Morris. In November 1988 Mr Morris clogged up thousands of computers and caused millions of dollars worth of damage after releasing a computer "worm" that spread widely over a nationwide network. Last week he was sentenced to 400 hours of community service and a \$10,000 fine under the Computer and Fraud Abuse Act which, similar to its proposed British counterpart, includes the possibility of prison sentences up to five years.

Food dangers

Irradiated food is safe and does not affect taste or smell and will become as common as frozen food, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The organization argues that research on animals has shown there are no long-term health effects. Food-borne diseases, the organization says, may become the second largest cause of mortality in Europe after respiratory ailments but irradiation was a simple preventative measure.

A fishy find



Two New York entrepreneurs claim to have developed a technique to give chickens the chemical make-up of a fish. The technique will also breed poultry that may prevent heart disease. Carl Schwartz and Howard Weiss have developed a new chicken feed and a method for administering the feed that they say increases greatly the amount of Omega-3 fatty acids in both the chicken meat and eggs. Researchers have looked at such fatty acids in an effort to explain why heart disease is far less common in parts of the world where people consume a lot of fish.

Matthew May

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 42

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A darker side to those spells in the sun

As more Britons bask in the sun, they increase their risk of developing skin cancers. Thomson Prentice reports on a new method of diagnosis which may reduce the need for distressing biopsies

Last week's heatwave may offer the prospect of a long hot summer, but it also prompts warnings from researchers who are investigating the increase of a potentially fatal form of skin cancer.

Although few people on British beaches may regard the sun as an enemy, melanoma, caused by excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet light, leads to about 1,000 deaths a year in this country. It is a serious public health threat in Australia, the United States and South Africa.

The disease can be cured by early diagnosis and treatment, but once the cancer becomes invasive, there is little that can be done to save sufferers.

The majority of victims in Britain are middle-aged women, but the condition is increasing among younger people who have one or more foreign sunbathing holidays

every year. One of the first signs of the disease is moles on the skin which have started to grow, itch or bleed. Dermatologists who examine the moles can form a suspicion about them, but an accurate diagnosis depends on their removal by biopsy and microscopic examination.

However, even in specialist centres, about 50 moles are removed for every one which turns out to be a melanoma. The unnecessary operations cause anxiety to the patient and add to the cost of the health service.

Two doctors at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north west London, believe they have a solution. Dr Amar Dhillon, senior lecturer in pathology, and Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist, are experimenting with what they believe is an improved method of detecting the early signs of skin cancer.



What price a tan? Young women who spend holidays sunbathing, are most at risk

They have developed a system of computerized image analysis that reveals much more information about suspicious moles.

The system has not been tested on patients yet, but would involve their moles being filmed with a video camera, and the magnified

images projected on to a computer screen. The computer analyses the four features of moles used to identify melanomas clinically: the asymmetry, border, colour and diameter of each mole.

"We hope that the results, by refining clinical criteria, will improve diagnosis and thereby reduce the number of benign moles which are removed unnecessarily," Dr Dhillon says.

tion of the anxieties and costs involved in unnecessary biopsies. The system is still some way from being available to patients. Dr Dhillon and Dr Rustin are hoping to get funding for a three-year trial of the technique, involving 500 patients a year, costing about £60,000.

In the trial, patients with suspicious moles will be examined both in the conventional way and using image analysis, and the diagnoses will be confirmed through biopsy. The results of the two methods will then be compared to see whether the computer system is more accurate.

The doctors predict that the rising incidence of the disease is likely to continue, as more people indulge in more sunbathing and as the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer allows more ultraviolet sunlight through.

"The current methods of assessing early possible signs of melanoma are inadequate," Dr Dhillon says.

"We have to try to produce improvements." Their views are shared by Malcolm Greaves, professor of dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, in south London.

In the current issue of the *Journal of the Royal College of*

Physicians of London, he says: "Because of the progressively increasing proportion of the population in the over-60s, skin problems consequent upon ageing, and therefore partly attributable to sun exposure, are going to represent an expanding burden on the skin clinic."

"The increase in melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer is only partly due to increased longevity. Increased exposure to the sun's rays due to reduction of the ozone layer, and changes in leisure are also major factors."

"The dermatologist and the dermatological nurse are in the front line; both must sharpen their diagnostic acumen and increase the scope of the diagnostic and therapeutic techniques they provide."

"They should also make use of the media to promote awareness and encourage early diagnosis."

Professor Greaves says that dermatological research in Britain and in other European countries is carried out on a relatively small scale.

"National and European grant-awarding bodies and specialist associations must use their influence to pool and integrate resources nationally and internationally to form centres of research excellence," he says.

Hi-tech to the East

PROPOSALS to relax the restrictions on the export of advanced technology to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe announced last week by the United States Government are likely to be far reaching, (Matthew May writes).

The plans will be considered at the next meeting of Cocom, the 17-nation body which controls the list of high-technology items restricted from export. The only argument is expected to be whether or not the plans go far enough. Thirty of the 120 categories now on the list would be removed and 13 more would be partially lifted.

The result would mean that almost any personal computer could be exported anywhere. This is an area where European and US manufacturers have consistently argued that restrictions have meant only lost business opportunities, as such machines are widely available on the world market. Larger computers that can process up to 275 megabits of data a second - four times the present limit - would also be dropped from restriction.

For Eastern European countries moving towards democratic reforms, the US is suggesting that requests for computers used in banking, travel and publishing should get favourable consideration.

JOBSGENE

Engineer's title role confusion

IT experts seeking recognition of their skills face the question of qualification

Information technology experts could become chartered engineers if the British Computer Society (BCS) is successful in its attempts to become a nominated body of the Engineering Council. The move is part of a drive within the industry to formalize the practice of developing software and, if successful, BCS would be able to confer the title of chartered engineer on IT practitioners.

Membership of the BCS remains one of the few avenues open to IT practitioners to gain formal recognition for their skills. The engineer title - already being conferred informally on certain categories of software developers - is causing confusion.

Companies are advertising for software engineers and some are now also referring to information engineers. Most are seeking staff with experience of developing systems using structured or formal methods, although few firms state a preference for any particular qualification.

Some see these titles as little more than a new hat for an old job. Others argue that the engineer title indicates the practitioner's ability to develop software using specific methods or principles.

Others seek to draw a distinction between software engineers - those who produce the system - and information engineers who define the solution, but leave it to the software engineers to construct.

Yet others see the information engineer as a description applicable to those using computer-aided software engineering (CASE) products to both define the system and automatically generate it from the original specification on powerful work stations.

"We have had to create a new category of IT staff called

information engineers to draw a distinction from consultants or analysts," says David Fairbairn, the managing director of James Martin Associates (0784 245 058).

"Information engineers are a combination of the analyst and designer. An information engineer will work with the user to define the system and then create the software using CASE technology on workstations."

These titles throw the existing hierarchy into some confusion and blur the boundaries between job functions.

John Kirkham, consultant to the Department of Trade and Industry's Software Engineering Solutions programme, says: "The old titles of programmer and analyst do not apply anymore, and the engineer title reflects the technique of designing systems formally."

"The business analyst is now seen as an information engineer - someone who analyses the business problem and decides what system is needed. The software engineer constructs it. But information engineering encompasses software engineering - there is no black-and-white divide."

Companies are recruiting from different backgrounds to spearhead the new breed of information and software engineers. Scientists, with their formal training, are seen as having the ideal skills for making use of the latest generation of CASE techniques and engineering approaches.

Oracle, the software supplier, is looking to recruit a number of PhD graduates in unrelated subjects to develop business software applications for customers. "We are using structured engineering techniques in building software and scientific training helps in terms of a methodical approach to planning and defining applications," says Alan Hovell, Oracle's recruitment manager (0344 860066).

He says one reason that many existing analysts have little training in formal methods and the industry needs to recruit outside traditional areas to make up the shortfall of expertise.

Leslie Tilley

First blinks of eye on the sky

AS GROUND controllers struggle to reprogram the communications system of the Hubble Space Telescope to overcome the trouble caused by an obstruction to one of its antennae, its counterpart on the ground is yielding results, (Pearce Wright reports).

The latest and most powerful earth-bound instrument is the New Technology Telescope (NTT) which has been installed by the eight-nation European Southern Observatory organization, at its 2400m mountain-top site at La Silla, in Chile. One of the prime purposes of the NTT, which cost \$14 million (£5.2 million) to build, will be the observation of very faint and distant galaxies.

Initial tests have concentrated on the scrutiny of known stars and galaxies, with intriguing findings. The details outlined in *The Messenger*, the organization's quarterly bulletin, include a

description of the "light echo", a phenomenon generated by a supernova explosion in February 1987, the first naked-eye supernova explosion seen in 400 years. The "light echo" that followed the first sighting of this dramatic event was the discovery of a ring of light reflected from inter-stellar dust clouds.

Detailed pictures of that echo, still spreading across the sky in the southern hemisphere, have been obtained together with the clearest images yet seen of an object known as the "Peculiar Galaxy" that has baffled astronomers. The clarity of the new images is proof of the idea of active optics pioneered at the NTT by a team working with Dr Raymond Wilson, the organization's senior optical scientist. Advances in automation and remote control will allow long-distance observations with the NTT by astronomers in Europe.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Crofters join the electronic village

A £16 million project to lower telecommunications costs and provide high-quality services will lead to a new type of worker in Scotland's rural areas - the "electronic crofter".

The first advanced communications network in the project will begin operating this month, offering users the chance to deal with big commercial centres in the UK and Europe for a fraction of the previous cost.

The project, by the Scottish Highlands and Islands Development Board (HIDB), is expected eventually to provide homes and special village centres with fast, high-quality digital communications facilities for voice, computer data and image traffic. These will be as good as those available to commercial conglomerates.

John Lough, telecommunications consultant for the HIDB, says the new "electronic crofter" will work from home, using new technology to establish links with businesses which were previously impossible because of the high cost of telephone charges.

Computer links will be made available between the region and the rest of the country. These will be available for the cost of a local

Communications promise to revive rural fortunes, Leslie Tilley reports

telephone call. This is expected to boost electronic transmission of work to and from communities in remote areas. The cost of exchanging information with an employer in London, for example, will be as cheap as if the user were phoning from a London suburb.

Rural councils and action groups believe the new technology will help reverse the gradual decline of the countryside - particularly the falling number of businesses and the exodus of young people.

A number of projects are being developed by organisations such as the HIDB, the Rural Development Commission (RDC) and British Telecom. The Highlands and Islands scheme will provide the remote area with the first operational Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) available to the public.

More than 40 exchanges in

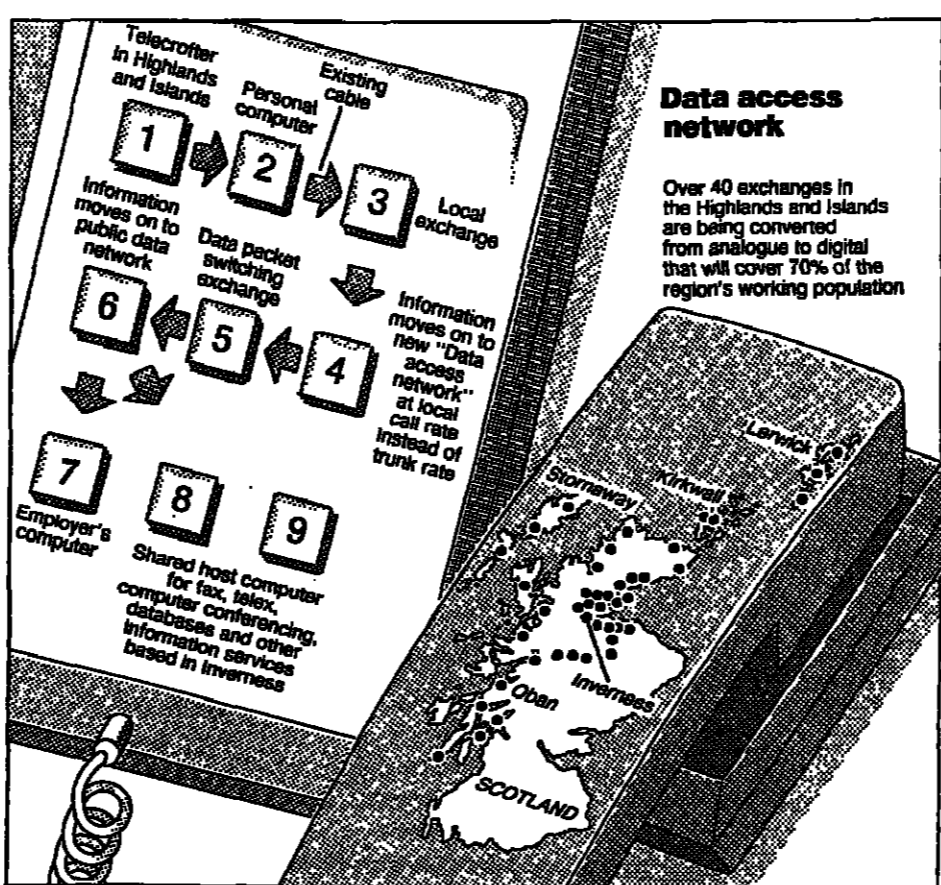
the Highlands and Islands are being converted from analogue to digital in a move that will benefit 70 per cent of the region's working population. The system is expected to open in July. Urban centres in Britain are not expected to have similar facilities until early next year.

The first development in the Highlands and Islands this month will offer connections to a public data network for the cost of a local call. From August, the network will charge 3p a minute to send computer information anywhere in the country.

The HIDB has invested £4.9 million in the project which, British Telecom says, would have been unlikely to go ahead without the additional funding. The project is expected to create at least 500 jobs.

Along with British Telecom and the Scottish Development Agency, the HIDB is backing a network of "electronic crofters" being set up by Just Krabshuis, an information services manager based in the Mull of Kintyre. People throughout the Highlands will then be employed from home, using the network to work for firms located elsewhere.

Similar developments are taking place on a smaller scale



elsewhere in Britain. "Telecottages" are established as community centres offering computers and office equipment to residents. A more recent innovation, the "telebusiness", aims at establishing a number of businesses in one building, supported by a central office centre with telecommunications facilities. Both are developments of "telecommuting" - a term used to describe people working from home, mostly with computers

or facsimile machines linked by telephone to an urban employer.

The Peak Park Trust is awaiting planning permission to convert a derelict farm in Hope Valley, Derbyshire, into the first "telebusiness" in the UK. It is expected to be established by 1991 at a cost of £380,000.

"This is the tip of a major revolution for the countryside," Godfrey Cliff, director of the trust, says. "Our scheme is geared to economic

regeneration by creating quality jobs to retain young people."

The first British "telecottages" has been set up in a disused library at a school in Warslow, Staffordshire, with the financial backing of the Staffordshire County Council, RDC and British Telecom. Computers and other office machinery are available, initially free of charge, to community members, or on a commercial basis to local entrepreneurs.



Heated agreement: Braithwaite, Burnett and two helpers

A heating technique under investigation offers hope for farmers and the elderly

A MICROWAVE cooking technique, being tested as a way of preventing new-born farm animals from perishing in cold weather, may also offer a low-cost way of keeping elderly people warm in retirement homes, scientists believe.

Leah Braithwaite, a Canadian veterinary research worker who has been involved in a five-year study of the technique, says findings from animals and humans suffering hypothermia indicate that very low-powered microwave treatment was both harmless and cost effective.

The team stresses that the prototype microwave unit uses a very low power output of only 40 to 50 watts compared to conventional micro-

Warming waves

waves for cooking which have a power rating of around 600 watts, which would be too powerful and highly dangerous.

Tests with piglets and chicks kept at artificially cool temperatures have demonstrated that the animals chose the microwave warming as much as they did conventional heating or infra-red warmth.

Importantly, however, the amount of energy needed to make the piglets and chicks comfortable was significantly less when microwaves were used, the scientists found.

There is evidence that when microwaves were used to heat the living quarters of retirement homes, where residents are highly susceptible to the cold, fuel bills could be cut by as much as half. "Microwaves could be used to keep the elderly people warmer than the staff around them," says Miss Braithwaite.

The benefits of microwaves have come from a five-year research programme at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Miss Braithwaite, a member of the Canadian team, is now collaborating with researchers

at the Scottish Agricultural College's Centre for Rural Building in Aberdeen. The project hopes to develop a unit for British farms.

The device on trial at the centre can quickly "defrost" at-risk lambs. Traditional methods farmers use include putting the new-born lambs in very low-heat cookers, or shining heat lamps on them. However, the fleece acts as an insulation barrier, and these methods often fail.

"There is a fair bit of work to be done yet to make sure the system is foolproof, but the tests carried out so far this lambing season are very encouraging," George Burnett, the centre's development officer, says.

Nick Nuttall

SCIENCE REPORT

Just scratching fossil surfaces

Of the many peculiar life forms that have come and gone during the Earth's history, few are stranger than those habitually described by palaeontologist Simon Conway Morris, of Cambridge University.

But even a connoisseur of the off-beat as experienced as Mr Conway Morris is puzzled by the enigmatic fossil creature *Typhloesus*, which he discusses in a recent issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* (vol. B 327, pp 595-624). "That animal still has me completely stumped," he says.

Typhloesus, known from 320 million-year-old deposits in Montana, was a swimmer, about the same size and shape as a goldfish. But there the similarity ends. This apparently eye-

solved. *Typhloesus* (with teeth) was cast as a chordate, a member of the large group of animals to which humans also belong.

But doubt soon set in, reinforced by the discovery in 1980s by the discovery in Scotland of several long, worm-like fossils with conodont teeth at the front. These were more plausible conodont animals than *Typhloesus*, and probably akin to chordates.

Researchers still have no idea whether *Typhloesus* was related to chordates or, in fact, to any other known group; nevertheless, as Mr Conway Morris says, it must be related to something, however distantly.

Mr Conway Morris has made a career out of describing the bizarre. As a student, he described the many fossil animals col-

lected from the 540 million-year-old Burgess Shales in the Canadian Rockies. His partners in the project were Harry Whittington, of Cambridge University, and Derek Briggs, now at Bristol University. Many of these fossil crea-

tures were so strange that they could not be accommodated in any modern group of animals.

But the Burgess Shales have no monopoly on strangeness: the fossil record is peppered with creatures that defy interpretation. *Typhloesus* is just one.

Others are known from the 300 million-year-old Mazon Creek shales in Illinois, along with several kinds of fossil lamprey (themselves very peculiar). One Mazon Creek oddball is *Tullimonstrum*, a fishlike animal with eyes on long stalks and a snout like a bottle brush. Mr Conway Morris describes it as "the granddaddy of all these bizarre animals".

Henry Gee

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Continued from page 40

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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CRICKET

Robinson saves blushes of holders

TIM Robinson, the captain, saved Nottinghamshire from a sensational defeat against Scotland in their rain-affected Benson and Hedges Cup game in Glasgow yesterday.

The holders scraped to a last-over win after making heavy weather of a victory target of 209. Robinson claimed the Gold Award as he steered his team to a four-wicket win with just four balls to spare.

Excellent bowling by the spinner, Clarence Parfitt, who took four for 16, created havoc in Nottinghamshire's middle order. They lost six openers, Chris Broad and Paul Pollard for 20 but Paul Johnson pulled them round with 52.

The South African all-rounder, Omar Henry, hit an unbeaten 62 in Scotland's 55-over total of 208 for six. Richard Swan weighed in with 53, adding 90 with Henry for the fifth wicket. Scotland, 115 for four overnight.

SCOTLAND

11. Philip Brown b Parfitt 18
C.G. Greenidge c Cooper b Stephenson 18
P.W. Patterson not out 22
R.G. Swan c Parfitt b Saseby 53
J. Smith b Saseby 52
D. Henry not out 62
D. Brown b Stephenson 24
O. Henry not out 21
Extras (lb 1, w 9, nb 1) 21
Total (6 wickets, 55 overs) 208
D. Cooper, J.D. Miller and C.L. Parfitt did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2-46.3-46.4-61.5-151.6-204

BOWLING: Stephenson 11-0-49-2, Cooper 11-0-45-2, Parfitt 11-0-41-5, Saseby 11-0-39-2, Miller 11-0-31-4.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

B.C. Broad c Greenidge b Miller 14
P. Pollard c Greenidge b Miller 70
P. Johnson b Parfitt 20
D.W. Randall b Parfitt 7
F.D. Shepherdson b Parfitt 29
F.D. Shepherdson b Parfitt 29
Extras (lb 1, w 9, nb 1) 21
Total (6 wickets, 55 overs) 208
D. Cooper, J.D. Miller and C.L. Parfitt did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-20, 3-95, 4-114, 5-133, 6-173.

BOWLING: Cooper 10-0-51-1, Miller 11-0-45-2, Broad 11-0-45-2, Parfitt 11-0-41-5, Saseby 11-0-39-2, Miller 11-0-31-4.

Gold Award: R. Robinson.

Umpires: K.J. Lyons and G. Leadbeater.

Lancashire's record wiped out in day of miserable farce

By Jack Bailey

OLD TRAFFORD: No result. Lancashire 1st, Hampshire 1. CHRIS Hassall, the Lancashire secretary, blamed it on Hampshire's slow over-rate in the first match and so, one suspects, did the umpires. But there were a number of other reasons, the rules and the umpires' interpretations among them, why this fixture deteriorated into an 18-over-a-side slog, finishing at 7.15pm in conditions too dark to see the light meters.

In the end, Hampshire, who had been on the wrong end of the stick throughout much of the last two days, came within sight of overtaking Lancashire's total before play was abandoned, with some justice but no result.

The fact that this second match took place at all, rested on two factors: an interruption of the first match for bad light and rain, and the failure, for whatever reason, to take tea while the players were off the field, which meant that a 20-minute tea interval had to be included in the umpires calculation of whether the required number of overs to finish this match was possible.

BENSON AND HEDGES TABLES

Group A	W	L	D	NR	Pts
Lancashire	1	0	0	0	2
Surrey	1	0	0	0	2
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	2
Worcestershire	1	0	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	2
Nottinghamshire	1	0	0	0	2
Derbyshire	1	0	0	0	2
Leicestershire	1	0	0	0	2
Minor Counties	1	0	0	0	2

Group B

W

L

D

NR

Pts

Lancashire

Surrey

Warwickshire

Worcestershire

Gloucestershire

Nottinghamshire

Derbyshire

Leicestershire

Minor Counties

There was also the bewildering fact that you can play until 7.30pm on the first day but calculations regarding a finish go only to 7pm on the last day.

It was all like some surrealistic dream. Everything that had gone before was discounted — expunged from the records. This will presumably include Hampshire's punishment for a tardy over-rate which, had the match existed, would have warranted a fine of at least £800.

In spite of the official view, there was some wonderful cricket. I could have sworn I saw a number of records broken, among them a superb innings of 145 by Fairbrother which was the highest score by a Lancashire player in a limited-over match, Lancashire's highest partnership in limited-over cricket (244) between Fairbrother and Altherton, and the highest total (352 for six) achieved by a team in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

All this, in the presence of Mickey Stewart, the England manager, who will now presumably, in the course of

duty, forget all he might have learned about Fairbrother and Altherton among others.

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G. Fowler c Nicholas b Shine 45
N.H. Fairbrother c Terry b Ayling 149
N.H. Fairbrother c Terry b Ayling 149
M. Wallington c Parks b Maru 40
P.A.J. DeFreitas not out 75
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3
Total (6 wickets, 18 overs) 147
D.P. Hughes, P.J.W. Allen, W.K. Hagg and C.A. Connor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-20, 3-22, 4-23, 5-106.

BOWLING: Marshall 4-0-45-0, Shine 4-0-13-0, Connor 3-0-26-2, Ayling 3-0-22-2, Maru 4-0-40-1.

HAMPSHIRE

V.P. Terry c Fairbrother b DeFreitas 7
D.P. Hughes not out 44
D.P. Hughes not out 44
Extras (w 2, nb 1) 3
Total (1 wicket, 12 overs) 98
C.L. Smith, M.C. Nicholas, R.J. Scott, M.D. Marshall, J.R. Ayling, R.J. Parks, R.J. Maru and C.A. Connor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-10, 3-11, 4-12, 5-13, 6-14.

BOWLING: Patterson 2-0-10-0, Althorn 3-0-20-0, DeFreitas 2-0-14-1, Austin 3-0-28-0, Wallington 2-0-20-0.

Umpires: D.O. Odele and D.S. Thompson.

● The following are the details of the match in which Lancashire established several records before it was abandoned.

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Shooting down a military monopoly

JOHN H. PAUL



In the firing line: Russell indulges in a spot of target practice during a training session near Aviemore, Scotland

Russell has France in her sights

By Alix Ramsay

IMAGINE skiing 15 kilometres across country with a rifle strapped to your back and being required, at regular intervals, to drop on your face in the snow and fire off five rounds at a target, no bigger than an egg, placed 50 metres away. This is the biathlon.

In Britain, the biathlon has been the domain of the military, a relatively unknown poor cousin to the glamour events of downhill and slalom. For Fiona Russell, the event provides the ultimate challenge as she attempts to become Britain's first woman Olympic biathlete.

Although allowed to train seriously for the biathlon only last season, she was picked for the British development squad for the first time in January.

Her progress has been so rapid that the selectors have

given her the go-ahead to enter the Alpen Cup events next year in order to qualify for the pre-Olympic selection events in 1991. She is the only senior British woman to receive such backing.

"I was a downhill skier for six years," Russell said. "Before that, I had been a swimmer and a triathlete, and a marathon runner. But I was looking for more of a challenge."

"The biathlon combines endurance, speed and skill. You have to be a good athlete and a good skier technically. It is a very exciting sport — the positions in the race can change dramatically on the shooting."

"Every target you miss adds a minute to your time. The biathlon is now more than just an endurance test, more and more skiers are learning to shoot and come into the sport, making the times very fast."

Russell is still the best British woman. At the British championships, she streaked ahead in all her five races to clean up the honours. "That was in January and I've improved a lot since then," she said.

Her improvement has been so impressive that Richard Grieve and Don Maiden, the former British team manager and shooting coach, have agreed to help guide her to the 1992 Olympics in Albertville, France.

Russell is nothing if not determined. Giving up her job as a physiotherapist at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, she is now hoping to leave her Putney home to live in Scotland and train at Aviemore.

Last season, she financed herself to compete and train in Europe, coming back with a third place in an Alpen Cup event and ninth place in the French championships.

Training with the men's team, Russell has broken down some of the chauvinistic barriers. "At first, it is difficult," she said. "They worry that the girls are not dedicated athletes but, now they know I am serious, they have been super to me. They help me where they can and, in return, I've helped them as a physiotherapist."

With a lack of training facilities in Britain, Russell has been advised to train abroad. But while she has been invited, and will take up, an invitation to train with the strong Soviet Union squad in Minsk later this month, she is keen to stay in this country.

"I am British and I want to train here," she said. "It is good to make friends with people in your own team. By 1994, we will hopefully have enough girls in the squad to enter a women's team for the Olympics."

Botham is back in reckoning

IAN Botham, the Worcestershire all-rounder, is under consideration, a place after a knee operation, for the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston today.

Warwickshire

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 10 1990

LETTERS: 44
RACING: 45
CRICKET: 46

Europe wants legal pledges from England

From David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent
Gothenburg

LENNART Johansson, the president of UEFA, the European football union, yesterday spelled out the terms under which his executive committee might allow English clubs back into European competition next autumn. The door is not closed, but it is only conditionally ajar.

In an exclusive interview, given to *The Times* before the Cup Winners' Cup final last night, Johansson made it clear that guarantees would be needed from Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, on legal provisions to be undertaken by the Home Office and Foreign Office, irrespective of a problem-free World Cup by followers of England. The latter, in my opinion, is highly improbable.

Johansson, the Swede elected last month as president of the governing body of European football, said: "I have never personally been emphatic one way or the other. I am going to London to talk with the minister and officials of the Football Association and Football League, hoping to be given answers on critical issues, before the meeting of our executive committee in Vienna in two weeks' time."

"The problem of football violence cannot be solved by doing nothing. Of course, the final responsibility rests with UEFA, but before any decision is taken we should listen to those in England and discover how far they are prepared to share responsibility with us."

"If the British Government is proposing to take all possible legal steps within its ability, on security abroad and at home on high-risk matches, and if the FA and Football League convince us they

too are ready, then the answer could be Yes."

Johansson was dismayed to learn of the lack of co-operation between the police and football authorities at the match between Bournemouth and Leeds last Saturday, given all the warning signs, including that emphasized in *The Times* following the invasion of the Leeds pitch by 5,000 spectators at the end of their match against Leicester the previous weekend.

"The match was still played as if nothing could happen," Johansson said in evident astonishment. "There is not such a difference in football violence in The Netherlands and Italy, except that their authorities react as if the worst may happen at every match."

"Football has become almost compared with a war. Yet I do not believe we should give up. It will

cost a lot to find the solution, but it would cost even more to society to allow a minority to kill off football. We must be positive. Even if we were to close all football, the trouble-makers would simply go somewhere else."

Johansson considered that if Moynihan and the FA, as expected, request that UEFA delays the decision until the end of the World Cup, the executive committee might establish alternative decisions on May 24: continued exclusion in the event of trouble, re-entry in the absence of it.

Administration requires a clear procedure because the draw for the European club competitions takes place only three days after the World Cup final. Johansson presumed the English would request re-admission if massive Italian police control proved effective.

Following the agreement on Tuesday by the Football League to concede to the Association of Chief Police Officers the right to switch the date and place of fixtures for safer crowd control, Johansson is to propose the same condition for European competitions. Home clubs will have to obtain the guarantee of sufficient police manpower or the match will be moved to a larger town.

In other words, if Manchester United or Liverpool were drawn, say, against Aarhus in Denmark or a Luxembourg club, the match could be moved to Copenhagen or Brussels. If Norwich were to play Ajax, the home leg might have to be moved to an English city with greater police strength.

"This must be the system," Johansson said. "Clubs and cities have to share the responsibility with us. They collectively receive

millions of pounds in benefit, and they must share the cost to eliminate the problems. There will always be fight at football. Heysel was the product of many errors."

"Although I am ultimately responsible in European football, we have to do something together: or give in to a minority of a few thousand. I want to be positive without being naive."

Johansson privately regretted the decision in England, following the Taylor report, to remove or reduce many of the fences keeping the crowd off the pitch; he believed that electronically-controlled safety gates, released by one press of a button, would be preferable. Police control, he argued, had to be supplemented by foolproof structural restrictions.

Moreover, he said, police could and should be more effective. "When English spectators arrived

in Sweden last autumn for the World Cup qualifying match, the trouble-makers were there among the rest. Yet they were allowed to start smashing windows in the city centre. The Stockholm police should be able to handle 300 trouble-makers."

With many years in the game, Johansson is not immune to the underlying motivation of those, including those besides the English, who claim that European football needs them as much as the English need European competition. There is an inherent danger in this philosophy. As Gerhard Aigner, the UEFA general secretary, said: "In reality, little has changed in the last five years."

Johansson, a reasonable man, said: "I have an open mind." Johansson's very openness may itself pose a danger.

Islanders decline to give Minister safety guarantees

From John Goodbody, Cagliari

COLIN Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday ran into local difficulties in his attempt to minimize possible hooliganism at the World Cup.

Although he obtained support from the Italian Government in Rome for the principle of no alcohol being sold in local bars for the 24 hours on the day that England play their three matches in the preliminary round, Moynihan flew out last night without the certainty that such an order would be carried out by the Sardinian authorities.

All he received from the meetings with Dr Mario Praxi, the deputy prefect, and Emilio Pazzi, the head of police, was an agreement that this would be considered by the Municipality.

There will have to be some strong influence from the Italian Government on the officials of Cagliari, who are noted for their independence,

E Germans to decide

KOENIGSWINTER, West Germany (AP) — East Germany may withdraw from the qualifying stages of the 1992 European championship because the two German states are moving towards unification so quickly, officials said yesterday.

East and West Germany are in the same group for the championships in Sweden, along with Wales, Belgium and Luxembourg. Qualifying

games start early next season. Hans-Georg Moldenhauer, president of the East German Soccer Federation, said his organization was considering pulling out from the qualifications because rapid moves to unite the German states may produce a single German team by 1992.

"We are going to watch the developments and if necessary we will discuss a withdrawal before the start of qualifications," he said.

Police and League rapport is at a high

By Louise Taylor

THE degree of co-operation between the police and the Football League became clear yesterday, when *The Times* discovered that the League had agreed to 36 of the 38 requests from the police to reschedule matches last season. The two it refused to move, Bournemouth versus Leeds and Middlesbrough versus Newcastle, proved among the most troublesome.

Under pressure from the Home Secretary, the League pledged on Tuesday that it would accede to police advice over sensitive fixtures.

Superintendent Glen Symes of Wiltshire Police explained how Swindon Town had agreed to reschedule five matches from Saturdays to Sundays last season. He said: "We asked for the matches against West Ham United, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Portsmouth, Sheffield United, and Leeds United to be switched to the Sunday because we had a history of problems involving the supporters of those clubs."

Dorset Police, rejected by the League when they sought a switch of the Bournemouth versus Leeds match last Saturday, received a more encouraging response when they wanted Bournemouth's match against West Ham moved to a Sunday in November.

"There were no problems then that I am aware of, so I have not got a clue as to why Leeds last Saturday was a problem," Inspector Philip Coward, the police liaison officer at Bournemouth, said. There were 120 arrests, mainly of Leeds supporters, at Bournemouth.

● Chesterfield have brought forward to noon the kick-off of their fourth division promotion play-off game against Stockport in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the crowd disturbance last weekend. Police made 34 arrests after trouble at the game against Grimsby Town. Chesterfield have also made the play-off semi-final first leg an all-ticket game.

The matches in the 1989-90 season which the League switched at the request of the police:

New date	Old date	Match
Feb 9	Sept 23	Pon Valley v Stoke
Feb 16	Oct 7	Stoke v Port Vale
Nov 1	Oct 31	Bournemouth v W Ham
Oct 13	Oct 14	Cardiff v Chester
Oct 14	Oct 15	Sheff Wed v Walsley
Oct 15	Oct 16	Crewe v Bristol R
Feb 9	Feb 10	Walsley v Walsley
Jan 27	Jan 28	Northampton v Wigan
Jan 13	Jan 14	Wolverhampton v Swindon
Feb 18	Feb 17	Sheff Wed v Walsley
Jan 28	Jan 27	Bristol R v Bolton W
Feb 18	Feb 17	Sheff Wed v Walsley
Mar 13	Mar 10	Peterborough v Lincoln
Aug 25	Aug 26	Crewe v Reading
Sept 2	Sept 3	Tranmere v Luton
Sept 9	Sept 10	Tranmere v Luton
Oct 27	Oct 28	Tranmere v Luton
Nov 20	Nov 19	Tranmere v Luton
Dec 1	Dec 2	Wigan v Birmingham
Dec 10	Dec 9	Swindon v Sheff Wed
Dec 13	Dec 12	Tranmere v Luton
Dec 17	Dec 16	Cardiff v Chester
Jan 5	Jan 4	Tranmere v Luton
Jan 19	Jan 18	Tranmere v Luton
Feb 4	Feb 3	Swindon v Luton
Feb 9	Feb 10	Tranmere v Luton
Feb 23	Feb 24	Tranmere v Luton
Mar 9	Mar 10	Tranmere v Luton
Mar 16	Mar 17	Wigan v Bolton W
Mar 30	Mar 31	Tranmere v Swindon
Oct 16	Oct 15	Tottenham v Arsenal
Jan 14	Jan 13	Middlesbrough v Sunderland

● Police in conjunction with local authority.

Position of president is at risk

THE second division play-offs could lead to a change of Football League president (Louise Taylor writes). Should Blackburn Rovers win promotion to the first division, Bill Fox, their chairman, would lose his place as a second division representative on the League management committee and would have to forfeit his role as president.

Similarly, if Newcastle United triumph in the play-offs, Gordon McKeag, their chairman, who narrowly lost to Fox in the contest for the presidency, would lose his seat as another second division representative on the management committee.

Reg Burr, the chairman of Millwall and a first division management committee representative, has already lost his League position following the relegation of his club.

Blackburn face Swindon Town in a semi-final of the play-offs, which begin on Sunday, while Newcastle United meet Sunderland.

Americans airlifted in for their ooh-la-la

From Patricia Davies
Paris

LOOKS are everything as far as the French are concerned. *Le style* is paramount and, as a result, the Hennessy Women's Cup, which starts at Saint Germain today, features two Americans whose golf was of secondary importance when it came to issuing their invitations. Deborah McHaffie and Tammie Green were picked, from photographs, because they looked good.

Lionel Provost, the promoter of the event, which is one of the best on the women's

tour and worth £13,500 to the winner, was candid. "They were chosen for their looks above all else," he said. "We need women who look good. We have learned, over the years, that the aesthetic element is important for good coverage."

Perhaps all that sounds less sexist in French. Apparently, some of the magazines complained that the women were not photogenic enough.

But there should be no complaints this year. McHaffie and Green have both been featured in glamorous poses in *Fairway*, the

American tour's annual magazine, and are also pleasant, gracious personalities.

Green has also won a tournament, the du Maurier Classic, one of the women's major championships, and said she was "flattered" at the idea of being asked for her looks. According to a man who knows about these things, she has the best legs on the US women's tour.

McHaffie, a long, leggy blonde from Las Vegas, has been playing golf for only seven years and was 49th on the money-list last year. But she has drawn crowds who

were simply curious to see what she was wearing.

Coming from Vegas, however, she does not know the meaning of sartorial restraint and, we are informed, once featured in a list of the worst dressed golfers under the heading "typhoon of fat".

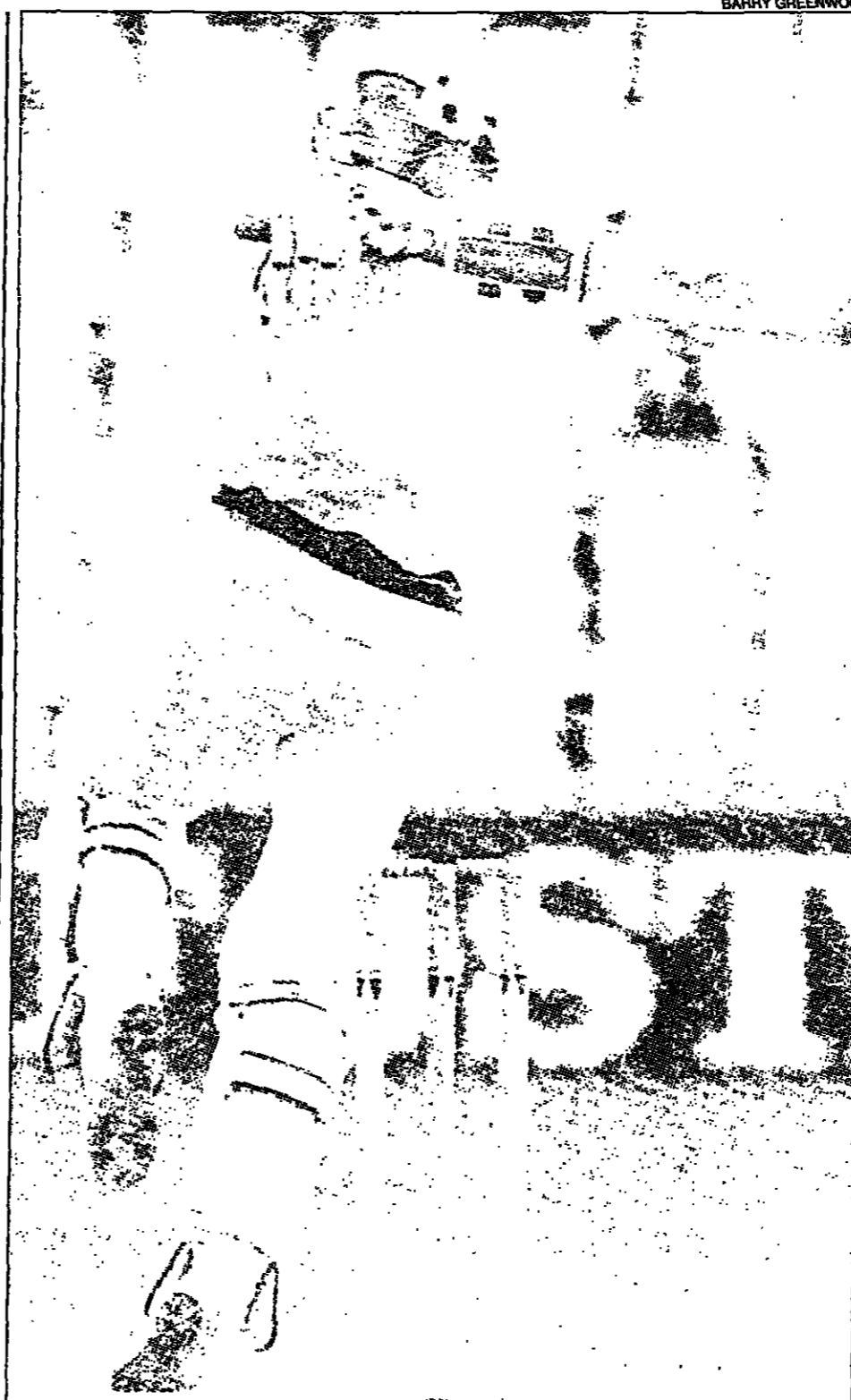
Yesterday, she was fairly restrained in matching white blouse and shorts covered with black zig-zags to match her zebra headcovers.

Jane Blalock, the American professional who had a row with Jan Stephenson a few years ago, when the Australian

was pictured in a variety of sexy poses for a calendar, would certainly not approve. But no one here seemed to mind.

Allison Nicholas, one of the British competitors in the tournament, said: "They're both very nice girls and, if it attracts people, that's great."

"I've always been short and dumpy so I don't think I've ever been invited to any tournament for my looks."



In full flight: Atherton hooks the ball away on his way to a century and a record-breaking partnership in a game that was later abandoned. Match report, page 46

Students humble Yorkshire

By Martin Searby

HEADINGLEY: Combined Universities (2pts) beat Yorkshire by two wickets. YORKSHIRE yesterday suffered the indignity of defeat by the Combined Universities, who are confident they can reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup for the second successive year.

The universities achieved their target of 198 with seven balls to spare in an innings which owed much to the laxity of the Yorkshire fielding, which included four dropped catches. The students, in addition to holding everything in the air, ran out three men in Yorkshire's stuttering innings on the first, rain-affected, day.

James, the opening batsman, benefited from three straightforward misses and stayed to play the anchor role in a knock of a little under three hours before he was sixth out.

Mark Crawley, the captain, said: "I think if he had gone we would have been in some trouble because our batting is not as sound as our bowling,

which is tighter than last year. Van der Merwe swung the game for us but we were the better side in the field."

The second place in the group is between ourselves and Surrey and there's no reason why we should not be in the quarter-finals again if we play well."

Van der Merwe, a freshman from South Africa, weighed in with 27 from 16 deliveries. His straight hitting with a full arc of the bat accelerated the scoring at just the right time. Atkinson earlier struck crucial blows, two sixes in an over off Carrick, but he, too, was dropped at mid-on when he had scored only one.

The ball seemed so considerably that survival and calm were important in the early part of the innings. James, riding his good fortune, supplied his steady assistance from Dale, Atkinson and Longley. By lunch 86 were required from the last 16 overs and Jarvis, in a second spell, bowled with enough pace to unsettle Longley.

James, trying to pull, was finally beaten by a delivery that did not rise as much as he anticipated after striking half a dozen good boundaries from his 137 balls. Orrell was foolishly run out and Van der Merwe went the same way.

Smith, a Yorkshireman on Gloucestershire's books, found it well worthwhile interrupting his finals in French and German at Exeter University. He struck the winning blow to inflict on Yorkshire their fifth defeat in six matches this season.

YORKSHIRE: 197 for 8 (55 overs) (R J Blakely 55, P E Robinson 57).
S P James b Seddon 63
M A Crawley c Blakely b Jarvis 27
J M Atkinson c Seddon b Jarvis 16
J C M Towler c Seddon b Jarvis 16
J C M Atkinson b Jarvis 16
J L Orrell run out 14
V H van der Merwe run out 27
R J Turner not out 15
M Smith not out 12
Extras (b 1, lb 11, w 3, nb 3) 18
Total 185 (wickets 53.5 overs) 260
F Bowling did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-56, 3-65, 4-85, 5-121, 6-145, 7-176, 8-195.
BOWLING: Jarvis 10-0-29-2, Seddon 11-41-1, Fletcher 10-5-14-0, Hartley 11-24-3, Carrick 11-0-40-0.
Gold Awards: W H van der Merwe.
Umpires: B J Meyer and J C Balderson.

French are Britain's hurdle in Davis Cup

From Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent
Rome

GIVEN the cliché much loved by football managers that a home tie against anyone is best, Britain should be happy with the draw for the Davis Cup made yesterday in London.

In most other ways, a tie against France, one of the strongest teams in the competition, seems cruel luck for Britain as they attempt to get back to the top 16 teams in the world for the first time in four years.

"It is disappointing because there were so many other teams we could have played that were equal to us in ranking," said Warren Jacques, the British team captain. "But we have to be positive, the pressure will be off us and on them. They will be expected to win."

Jacques should not be too downcast. Last time the two countries met, 12 years ago in Paris, Buster Mottram beat Yannick Noah in four sets, Mottram won 3-2 and went on to reach the final before losing to the United States.

In addition Jeremy Bates, the British No. 1 who has an excellent record in Davis Cup on grass, will not need any outside motivation against either Noah, whom he beat in Milan earlier this year, or Henri Leconte. Jacques's next task is to search out the fastest, hardest grass courts in the land for the tie which starts on September 21. Possible venues are Queen's Club, Wimbledon, or Eastbourne.

DRAW (asterisk denotes seeded country): Britain v France; Canada v Netherlands; Soviet Union v Spain; Mexico v Uruguay; Sweden v Finland; Israel v China; Yugoslavia v Switzerland; Belgium v South Korea.

Matches to be played between September 21 and 23 midweek, with venues to be decided. The eight winners will participate in the world group in 1991 together with the eight first-round winners of the 1990 competition. The eight losers will participate in their respective zones.

Gold signs off with attack on apartheid

SIR Arthur Gold stepped down yesterday after 12 years as chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England. His successor as chairman is another veteran official, Norman Sarsfield, aged 69, the council's honorary treasurer.

Sir Arthur, aged 73, bowed out at the annual meeting with an attack on apartheid. He said: "I believe I speak for all British sports officials and competitors when I reiterate loudly and clearly that I utterly detest racial, religious and political discrimination in all its aspects and wherever it occurs... not merely in sport... not only in South Africa."

Start date of reduced pools duty awaited

By John Winder

JOHN Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is expected to make an early statement in the Commons about the date for the introduction of the reduced football pools duty, which he announced in the Budget.

Richard Ryder, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs last night that negotiations between the Football Trust, the Pools Promoters Association and the football authorities have reached an advanced stage.

Major said in the Budget that he would cut the duty by 2.5 per cent, provided that the balance went to football trusts to improve the safety and comfort at football grounds.

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